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LD291310 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iranian Air Force bombed Iraqi positions in the Al-Faw operational area, Tehran radio reported. According to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses, the Iraqi Air Force scored "accurate" hits on a "large maritime target" and a "very large maritime target" in the Gulf.

Iranian claims that an Iraqi plane was downed over the Gulf were rebutted by an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA.

On the war of the cities, a WIH spokesman "categorically denied" Iraqi allegations that Iran attacked Iraqi civilian areas, IRNA reported. According to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio, Iran shelled a number of Iraqi cities between 21 and 28 April, including Al-Basrah and Darband-i Khan on 27 and 28 April. The communique warned that Iraq has the right to implement a "comprehensive, devastating deterrence" for the attacks.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that an Iranian factory is producing gas masks in limited numbers.

Israel

The IDF shot dead an Arab youth who threw a firebomb at an IDF patrol near Ramallah, Jerusalem radio reported. In a village near Nabulus, a woman was wounded when the IDF dispersed a "riot" with tear gas and rubber bullets, IDF radio said.

In another security incident reported by the THE JERUSALEM POST, civilian Excise Offices in Jericho were set on fire. Local residents claimed the arson was committed by "instigators from East Jerusalem who want to entangle the Jericho residents in the trouble."

The POST also noted that East Jerusalem businessmen declared a 3-day strike in defiance of military orders, while according to Jerusalem radio, commercial strikes were also staged in Judaea and Samaria.

Concerning the infiltration attempt near Mount Hermon, the IDF rebutted Lebanese reports that the IDF and the South Lebanese Army are besieging a Lebanese village whose residents helped "terrorist" squads reach the Israeli border, Jerusalem radio reported.

Voice of Lebanon radio noted that the recent infiltration attempts coincided with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah's announcement that Palestinians, in coordination with Lebanese Nationalist Forces, will open a strong armed front against Israel from southern Lebanon.

An Israeli charged with the attempted assassination of a PLO official in Athens was arrested by Greek police at the airport, Athens radio reported. PLO officials cited by the radio accused the Israeli secret service of the failed attempt.

Assassination of ASALA Head

Agop Agopian, founder and leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), was murdered outside his Athens home, Athens radio reported.

The radio stated that Agopian carried a PDRY diplomatic passport under the name of 'Abd al-Qasim Muhammad, and according to Radio Monte Carlo he also held a Lebanese passport under the name of Henri Tezinyan.

Lebanon

Seven people were wounded in Beirut when police fired on 3,000 Christian demonstrators marching to the Chamber of Deputies building to demand the return of their homes in Iqlim al-Kharrub and the Sidon area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. According to Beirut radio, security forces fired into the air to regulate the demonstration's course.

Jordan-Syria

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Jordan's King Husayn during a 1-day visit to Amman, Amman television reported.

Sudan

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was reelected prime minister by the Constituent Assembly with a vote of 196 out of 222, SUNA reported, adding that he was then formally sworn in.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Communique Backs Saudi Decision

LD281409 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1235 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis, 28 Apr (TAP)—The Arab League General Secretariat has issued a communique following Saudi Arabia's decision to cut its relations with Iran. The communique says:

"The decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to cut its relations with Iran is the result of Iran's persistence in continuing its policy of riots, threats, and aggression intended to destabilize the states in the region. This is over and above Iran's failure to accept Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for an end to the war and for peace among all states in the region, as prescribed by Islamic values, traditions, and conventions."

The communique noted that the Arab countries are still consolidating their efforts to prevent the war from spreading and to end the conflict on the basis of international law.

However, the communique pointed out that Tehran is insisting on continuing this war by adopting a policy of threats and by pursuing activities harmful to the internal security of some countries, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait.

The communique goes on to say that in view of the Iranian persistence in continuing its aggressive policy, the Kingdom had no choice but to make the decision dictated by the responsibility of preserving the security of the state, the wellbeing of its people, and the duty of organizing the season of pilgrimage in a way that guarantees peace and security for the pilgrims.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States considers the Saudi decision to be a measure that the Kingdom was compelled to take to protect its state sovereignty and the security of its territory and people.

The General Secretariat also considered it the Kingdom's duty to take, for the same purpose, every measure called for by the national and pan-Arab interest and that it is also its right to receive from fraternal states every support and assistance in its legitimate endeavors.

Al-Asad, Saddam Husayn May Meet Over Gulf War

LD291008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS today quoted unidentified Arab sources as saying they did not rule out the holding of a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the next few weeks.

These sources have based the expected holding of such a meeting on the Iraqi victory in the battle for Al-Faw and on President al-Asad's meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat earlier this week.

Furthermore, in Baghdad yesterday Mr 'Arafat met with the Iraqi president and it is believed that during this meeting the two men reviewed current Arab issues, the victories of the Iraqi Army in Al-Faw, and the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The sources also indicated that a number of Syrian officials had expressed clear satisfaction at Iraq's victory in the Al-Faw Peninsula, saying this extremely important military development could open the way, more than ever, to diplomatic efforts that might be successful.

The sources added that some Arab quarters "believed that Damascus alone could take the initiative to persuade the Iranians to accept the fait accompli and sit at the negotiating table, something they had hoped to do under different conditions."

The paper went on to say that what had happened in Al-Faw had convinced the Iranians that it was no longer possible to achieve better conditions and that they had to be content with the least disadvantageous conditions.

The paper also quoted a diplomatic source as saying that according to information reaching Damascus recently, sharp differences had emerged among senior Iranian officials about the circumstances leading to the Iranian departure from Al-Faw and about the policies that should be adopted in the future.

The source added that the Syrian officials were totally convinced that the Iranians would not be able in any case to carry out an astounding military operation against Iraq and that they had better give priority to diplomatic action.

AL-QABAS quoted these sources as saying that Mr 'Arafat had discussed seriously with President al-Asad the issue of Syrian-Iraqi relations.

It said also that the chairman's eagerness to choose Baghdad as a first stop after his meeting with Al-Asad signified first that he was not ready at all to sacrifice the PLO's strong relations with Iraq and, second, a secret attempt at a rapprochement between Damascus and Baghdad.

The paper also added that it was quickly reported in Damascus that the Libyan leader might try to convene a meeting between President al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn.

It said also that Jordan's King Husayn, who had frozen his efforts in this field, might resume his attempts again for the purpose of settling Syrian-Iraqi differences in preparation for the undertaking of a big push to end the Gulf war.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Comments on Peace Plan, 'Uprising'

JN281941 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1631 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by an unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Through the assassination of the great leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the Zionist enemy sought, among other things, to fragment our militant endeavors and drag us into positions far away from the basic arena of conflict through the expected demonstration of a hasty reaction with the aim of drawing attention away from the uprising.

Frankly, Brother Abu Iyad, our people's masses are awaiting a direct response to the crime of assassinating the great leader Abu Jihad. What do you have to say in this regard?

[Khalaf] As a matter of fact, as I said, our people's genuineness is above personal revenge. We are agreed that the blood of all martyrs who were martyred while carrying the flag and the stone is precious and dear to us.

I am not addressing Abu Jihad only. I am addressing all martyrs and especially the great martyr Abu Jihad, leader of the convoy of martyrs, and telling them that to be faithful to him [words indistinct].

I do not want to utter big words about them. However, let us say one thing; namely, that the criminal killers, the fascists, the new terrorists are daily threatening our people.

However, we will know how to respond to them at the appropriate time and place. This is all that I can say. There is no doubt that the retaliation will not be personal or individual. It will be an operation that serves the continuation of the revolution and the uprising.

This martyr [words indistinct]. They raised a hue and cry in the world about the torture camps and the Nazi concentration camps. The atrocities that they are perpetrating are more terrible and uglier than the atrocities and crimes perpetrated by the Nazis.

The entire world has come to realize that Israel is isolated and that it is going through a dilemma despite the fact the United States pours all kinds of financial and military support into this state, the last manifestation of which is the strategic agreement the Americans presented to Israel on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of their fascist Zionist state.

This gift is evidence to the world the United States ignores our people's rights due to the Arabs' weakness, which prevents them from confronting the United States as one.

Actually, I feel that Israel is very isolated and that it seeks to drag us into secondary battles to draw attention away from the uprising. For example, the hijacking of the "Al-Jabiriyah" [Kuwaiti] plane— and we have announced this—diminished interest in the uprising to some extent.

Then, things returned to normal. However, this incident has had a great effect. Those who carried out the hijacking of this plane, regardless of their intentions, have committed a crime against the uprising and against our Palestinian people.

Hence, I say that, God willing, the response will be in retaliation for all those martyrs, for all those heroes. The first response will be in the occupied territories and the final response will also be in the occupied territories, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Brother Abu Iyad, some issues remain to be tackled, such as the Arab summit, which the Algerians called for approximately 2 and 1/2 months ago. No venue or date has been fixed for this summit despite the fact 17 Arab states, to the best of my knowledge, have so far agreed to attend. What do you have to say about this issue?

[Khalaf] As a matter of fact, before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, some Arab states attempted to evade the convening of the Arab summit, because the main issue to be discussed by the summit is the uprising—how material, political, and moral support can be provided for the uprising.

Actually, we do not seek the convening of the summit to secure financial aid or money. We want to see all the Arabs take a unainmous stand demonstrating that this uprising reflects the feelings and sentiments of the entire Arab nation and that this uprising, in its militant and mass form, also reflects the opinion of all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories—the Palestinians who are unanimous in their reiteration of the need to allow them to obtain their right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

This Arab stand must also reiterate that any international conference must be effective to help realize this fact. The adoption of such a stand will spare us hearing the noes voiced by Shamir and Peres as well as the noes

voiced by this ruling junta, which is imposing hegemony on our people and which tries everyday to use the iron fist to weaken our people's morale. This is our objective.

We want to see the Arabs adopt a unanimous stand saying that they support the uprising, the objectives of the uprising, and the pursuit of a political solution that enables us to confront the world.

The Americans, beginning with Carter, Shultz, and others, have said that not all Arabs support the establishment of a Palestinian state and that those who met with the Americans do not support the establishment of such a state.

We want to ask the Arabs to say once and for all whether or not they support the establishment of a Palestinian state. We want to distinguish those who prevaricate from those who truly support the establishment of such a state. This is needed so our people can know where they stand.

Anyhow, we will continue the march, no matter what the results will be. We are sure about the sentiments of the Arab people who support us. We are also certain that no longer can anyone tamper with our people's national identity.

Our people seek to have their own identity. We are not [indistinct words] or Red Indians. We are a people who seek to regain their homeland and country. This homeland, be it big or small, will be the homeland of all the Palestinians and all the Arabs. [indistinct words].

We visited Algeria, Libya, and some other Arab capitals. As a matter of fact, there is a consensus that the Arab summit will be held after Ramadan and, more specifically, in the first week of June.

There is an Arab consensus on this. As a matter of fact, during the tour which took us to various Arab states, we did not encounter any state which objected to the convening of this summit.

So, there is a consensus. The continuation of the uprising is a basic factor in all this. The escalation of the uprising and the demonstration of further boycotting our Zionist enemy are all factors conducive to the success of the forthcoming Arab summit.

I am sure this summit will serve the interests of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. [words indistinct] We in the Arab world are suffering from many ills.

We have the Iraq-Iran war, some inter-Arab differences, the absence of Egypt, and some other issues. However, we must brush all these things aside, as the Egyptian people support us. Honestly speaking, we do not feel that we have any differences with any Arab state over our declared objectives.

Of course, it is better to see all the Arabs take a unified stand. We also seek to see the Arabs direct all their efforts to end this war, the crazy war raging between Iraq and Iran.

We believe that the gigantic resources of Iraq—people and Army—the basic resources must not really be directed toward hitting Iranian territory. They must be allowed to be directed in their proper direction; namely, toward the liberation of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Brother Abu Iyad, there are U.S. moves, and particularly those effected by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz who hastened to the region with the beginning of the escalation of the uprising in a bid to save Israel from its dangerous dilemma in which it has been placed by the uprising.

Do you expect that the Shultz plan will be discussed by the summit? And are we seeking a unified and unequivocal stand toward the Shultz plan?

[Khalaf] The moves effected by Shultz do not aim at finding a just settlement in the region. Had he sought this, it would have been demonstrated in his initiative.

His initiative does not make any mention of the PLO, of the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent national state.

Furthermore, it does not make any mention of an effective international conference. And here, we are not talking about a ceremonial international conference. So, this is the essence of the Shultz initiative.

Hence, how can the PLO view this initiative? Of course, the PLO rejects it and places many question marks about it. Hence, Shultz effected his moves to suffocate the uprising and to utilize it to conclude a capitulatory scheme that is sought to be imposed on the region.

He does not seek to utilize this uprising to serve the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state. We do not suffer from any complexes. We wish to see the United States support us. This is one of my wishes.

However, the fact is, the U.S. Administration only takes Israeli interests into account, thereby ignoring the Arab community and the Palestinian people. They [the Americans] are not showing any respect or esteem toward this Arab community and the Palestinian people.

The United States does not respect the Arab people and the Arab regimes, despite the fact the U.S. interest lies in these Arab states and not in Israel. [words indistinct] Hence, we resisted and rejected the Shultz plan, considering that it does not offer any solution.

We also boycotted Shultz more than once, considering he is not carrying anything for the Palestinian people—anything other than floating words that have no material significance and that are far away from the national objectives upheld by the uprising and the PLO.

Therefore, we seek to present the Shultz plan as a manifestation of a U.S. course in the pursuit of a settlement. What has been carried and proposed by Shultz is no different in any form from the Reagan plan and from previous U.S. plans.

On the contrary, the Carter Administration which had some ethics lost them when it helped conclude the Camp David accords. Then came the administration of this savage man, President Reagan, to produce a first and a second initiative that do not enshrine any committment to the attainment of any of the Palestinian people's rights.

Hence, we are not hostile to the United States because we seek to be so. We are hostile to the United States because the United States has never really offered our people any solution pertaining to their national rights.

For this reason, we resisted Shultz and will continue to do so. I am sure that transformations will be brought about in the U.S. Administration due to the continuation of the uprising.

These transformations will eventually result in the birth of a solution that truly pertains to our national rights, to our people's future, and to our people's exercise of their national rights and establishment of their Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, despite Israeli wishes and despite all annexation decisions made by Israel. Jerusalem is an Islamic and Arab city and it will remain so.

[Correspondent] The uprising, of course, lent further momentum and driving force to the PLO's political moves, especially on the international level and to its international relations and alliances, the most prominent manifestation of which is the Moscow visit. What about the Moscow visit?

[Khalaf] We spoke on the effect of the uprising on the international situation and on the world public. I have not spoken about the socialist states, headed by our friends the Soviet Union or the PRC.

These states have been supporting us for a long time—before the uprising, during the uprising, and after the uprising. They will continue to support our national rights and our people.

Fears have been voiced to the effect that the detente currently taking shpae between the USSR and the United States on the missiles and other regional issues might affect the USSR's stand toward our issue.

As a matter of fact, some harbored these doubts. However, I did not have any doubts. To prove things beyond any shadow of a doubt, the visit to the USSR had to materialize.

I and my brothers who participated in the visit consider it to be the most successful ever. For the first time, the talks were held with Gorbachev himself. In the past, meetings were held between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the general secretary, either Brezhnev or Andropov.

They were not official talks in the real sense of the word. They were courtesy meetings. Sometimes talks were held on the cause. [passage omitted]

As a matter of fact, the results of these talks are in complete harmony with the principles which we are upholding for the sake of reaching a just and comprehensive national setilement.

One of these results is calling for the convening of an effective international conference. It is correct that there is a mention of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, all UN resolutions are incorporated, the most prominent of which are those pertaining to the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

As for the issue of representation, the two sides agreed that the PLO is to be invited to the conference as an independent delegation or through an Arab delegation, but on an equal footing with other parties.

There is no mention whatsover of undermining the issue of Palestinian representation. These stands were really recorded in the minutes of meetings within the framework of a general agreement.

The Soviet Union will not renege on any of these principles on which we have agreed and they reiterated this. They also affirmed that they will seek compromises with the Americans.

However, these compromises, they said, do not pertain to the essence of these principles. They might pertain to the phases and the arrangment of these phases. One phase might precede another.

Eventually, there is a Soviet conviction that these principles represent the minimum level that satisfies the Palestinian people. The Soviet Union also considers this visit a jump based on the pursuit of principles and on the reiteration of Soviet principles and stands.

[Correspondent] Then, Brother Abu Iyad, how can we interpret the attempts made by some news agencies and newspapers, and specifically Western ones, to insinuate

that the Soviet leaders accepted the American stand and asked the PLO to voice a unilateral recognition of Israel's so-called right to exist?

[Khalaf] As a matter of fact, this is part of an attempt made to encircle the visit and to give a bleak picture of this uprising. It is part of the psychological warfare which is being waged by our enemies, either in the United States or in some other states.

The attempts made by the news agencies sought to distort the visit, to encircle the success of the visit, and to show that the visit was a failure and that the Soviet Union just asked us to recognize Israel. This is not true.

The beautiful thing is that TASS, which the news agencies said reported the news item, and NOVOSTI highlighted the denials made in this regard by both Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Brother Abu 'Ammar and some other brothers later.

Furthermore, they also published a commentary on the visit. In this commentary they entrenched and stressed the principles on which the Palestinian side and the Soviet side under Gorbachv agreed.

As a matter of fact, we consider this visit an important turning point in bilateral relations between the two peoples. History will record that the USSR has been faithful to these principles.

Besides, we have to mention the roles being played by France and the PRC. They all support our people's right to self-determination. After the uprising, the French have begun to make public statements in support of this right. [passage omitted]

On Al-Wazir Slaying

PM281405 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Apr 88 p 28

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by Zaki Shihab in Tunis "on the eve of Khalil al-Wazir's funeral in Damascus"]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: What is the latest on the investigations into the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir?

Khalaf: Actually the Tunisian brothers have not been happy about the people who enter and leave the country as tourists. I believe it is not in their economic interest to be more strict than necessary on that matter.

It is clear to us that the murderous groups entered the country as tourists. They watched the house every day and discovered it was not well guarded. They ascertained the daily routine of the martyred commander and the fact he hardly ever left the house at night.

They had prior knowledge of the layout of the house interior through male or female reporters who had entered the house for interviews with him. Having gathered all this information, they dealt their blow. They, of course, had some knowledge of the surrounding area.

As regards the vehicles used and later left on the beach, they were meant as a camouflage to give the investigators the impression that the culprits left by sea. In actual fact, their plan was that they would leave one after another in a manner making detection difficult.

It is our duty to take adequate security measures. In all honesty, I say that the Tunisian brothers do not interfere in our security affairs at all. They would not say no to any [Palestinian] official even if he used 100 guards. There also is a clear agreement between us and them that we are responsible for our own security. We often cooperate with them.

There is another point I want to make clear. The brother martyr's headquarters was Baghdad and he was due to leave for it the following morning. Many things will be unveiled.

All I can say is that, in planning and execution, the operation was quite similar to the Verdan-Beirut operation [in which a number of Palestinian leaders were assassinated].

AL-HAWADITH: To what extent can it be said that the Palestinian leaders are careless when it comes to taking security precautions for their own protection despite their knowledge they are sought targets?

Khalaf: First of all, it is not a matter of carelessness, more of regard for the circumstances of the country we live in. Second, each of the brother leaders is responsible for taking the necessary measures to ensure his own safety.

So, each one of us has his own views on this matter. Brother Abu Jihad [the assassinated Khalil al-Wazir] had a theory there should be no heavy guard because that would impede movement.

Brother Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] has an opposite theory based on not being in the same place regularly and being on the move continuously without being tied to fixed appointments in known places.

There are those who concentrate on changing locations. In the final analysis, we all believe that whatever happens to us is God's will.

He [Al-Wazir], may God have mercy on his soul, applied his theory for the past 25 years. He hated having guards and loved to move alone in his own car.

Often he would take a taxi to a meeting place or to his office despite his knowledge of the risks involved. He was previously the target of numerous assassination attempts in Beirut and elsewhere and he survived, but in the last attempt they managed to get him.

Our consolation is that he set up a a solid and strong organ capable of continuing and operating to his satisfaction even after his departure.

AL-HAWADITH: Some observers maintain his assassination will help abort the uprising. What is your comment on that?

Khalaf: The brother martyr Abu Jihad played an essential and important part in guiding and activating the uprising, but everyone should know this is not an uprising of leadership or of individuals.

It is an uprising of an entire people. You only have to look at the eruption in the occupied territory and the sacrifices offered by our people after the martyrdom of their commander to know whether or not the uprising will be aborted.

To those who fear for the uprising I say: "There should be no fear whatsoever for the uprising. It will continue through the will and faith of the people."

We, as a movement and a revolution, have the advantage of having an organization and a planning apparatus which ensure the continuity of the movement even if all the leaders should fall.

This does not mean that we do not grieve or are not sad at the loss of a brother comrade on a long road. On the contrary, Abu Jihad played an essential and major part in activating the uprising, preparing for it, and ensuring its continuation.

He did that, of course, through his apparatus which, as I have already said, still exists, will continue, and does not in its operation depend on certain individuals.

The special characteristic of our movement is that its march is not hampered by the martyrdom of dear brothers. The proof is the flood of martyrs and leaders offered by the movement, such as Brothers Kamal Nasir, Kamal 'Adwan, Sa'd Sayil, Majid Abu Sharar, Abu 'Ali Iyad, Abu Yusuf al-Najjar, and others, and the fact it has survived all the attacks it has been subjected to since the September 1970 events, including the Israeli siege of Beirut and now the martyrdom of my brother Abu Jihad.

As a leadership we take even worse possibilities into consideration in our calculations so the revolution and the march toward the target will continue.

AL-HAWADITH: Who in the Palestinian leadership will be in charge of the organ left by the martyred commander?

Khalaf: First of all, the establishment founded by Brother Abu Jihad and called "the occupied territory organ" has played a prominent role over the past years and is still playing that role in keeping in step with the occupied territory, its circumstances, and the required tasks.

We believe every member of that organ is qualified to run it, but, in practical terms, no one has so far been appointed. It is not in our interest to mention names at this point.

One of the brother leaders will certainly be appointed in the near future to take charge of the organ. We very much hope to be able to discharge the necessary duties despite our loss of a great commander who gave his life for the struggle for the just cause.

AL-HAWADITH: Would such a person have Abu Jihad's qualities, capabilities, and knowledge?

Khalaf: They are all part of the occupied territories organ. The duty of the brother leaders of that organ is to deal with daily events and keep abreast of developments. The general responsibility rests with us all but the brother to be appointed will be one of the martyr's colleagues who knows everything.

AL-HAWADITH: How true are the reports about Soviet warnings to the PLO leadership about possible assassination attempts in various areas?

Khalaf: We received many warnings before and during the uprising and after every operation carried out in the occupied territories. Such warnings increased recently and they came from friends urging vigilance and caution, but the point is that we must operate because we cannot suspend our work as a precaution.

That is why we did not dwell too long on such warnings because we have been used to them since the beginning of our struggle. We did receive such information from our Soviet brothers and others. It is not new to us.

Also, days before the assassination of martyr Abu Jihad, the official in charge of Israel's Mosad issued a circular providing for the pursuit and assassination of the historical leaders of the resistance for their part in igniting the uprising and changing the course of the historical growth of the Zionist state, but we maintained our security measures based on our own understanding of security.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view Syria's reception of the Palestinian leadership. Could it be said that the page of past relations has been turned and a new page opened?

Khalaf: I can say that just as he served Palestine in his lifetime, the brother martyr has also served it in his death. I believe the step taken by Damascus in receiving

the Palestinian leadership was a positive step denoting a new Syrian position which in fact is the same position that has been emerging over the past few months.

These preceding stands, I believe, paved the way for this step. There have been direct and indirect contacts between us since the beginning of the uprising. We are planning the restoration of relations quietly and without clamor, taking into consideration the years of estrangement and the problems which have stood in the way of relations between Syria and the PLO leadership.

We have dealt with all these matters easily and carefully bearing in mind that many circles do not want to see strong ties between the two sides based on understanding, frankness, and clarity in the interest of the central issue of Palestine and Arab solidarity in the face of Shultz' conspiratorial designs and the proposed solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinian Talks Held; Hawatimah Remarks Cited

JN281247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Talks were held this morning between a delegation from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front led by Secretary General Dr Samir Ghawshah on one hand and the Palestinian national unity committee stemming from the PLO Executive Committee consisting of Abu 'Ali Mustafa, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Hani al-Hasan on the other.

This was announced by official spokesman Khalid 'Abd al-Majid. He added that the talks dealt with methods to support the uprising, steps to complete and achieve a comprehensive national unity within the PLO framework, and the importance and need for strengthening relations between the PLO and Syria.

The conferees affirmed the need for continuing dialogue among all factions to begin the preparations for convening the PNC.

In another development, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah held a press conference in which he commented on the differences inside the Fatah Movement.

He said: The PLO calls for a common dialogue at a common table. No party in the Palestinian arena can use a veto against another party.

Hawatimah thanked the Arab and foreign countries which mediated between Syria and the PLO. He mentioned Algeria, Libya, the USSR, and the PRC.

Hawatimah said the DFLP highly praised Syria's response, a matter which contributed to creating a suitable atmosphere for dialogue between Syria and the PLO.

He said that restoration of Syrian-Palestinian relations will be an obstacle to the U.S. plan. He added that dialogue between Syria and the Fatah Central Committee was bilateral. This dialogue will continue to discuss all issues. All Palestinian parties will then move to hold a comprehensive dialogue.

Hawatimah on 'Strong Armed Front' Against Israel

NC2804161188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] A Palestinian stand announced in Damascus today has attracted local and regional attention. According to this announcement, the Palestinians will open a strong armed front against Israel from southern Lebanon.

It is known that the reactivation of military action against Israel, the borders of which have been violated in the past 2 days, has coincided one way or another with the Syrian-Palestinian reaction.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has decided that the Palestinians will open a strong armed front against Israel from southern Lebanon in cooperation and coordination with the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Speaking at a news conference in Damascus today, Hawatimah said that most of the PLO offices and establishments will be transferred to Damascus from Tunis, following completion of the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Hawatimah emphasized that Syria is eager to safeguard the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Responding to yesterday's statement by Sa'id Kamil, PLO representative in Cairo, that Egyptian-Palestinian relations will not be severed following the reconciliation with Syria, Hawatimah said:

Let him say what he likes. He is responsible for this statement, which aims at undermining the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Hawatimah added that the Syrian and Palestinian leaders agreed during their recent meetings in Damascus to resume the dialogue between them as soon as possible—in a few days' time at the most—so relations between them may be resumed.

He said normalization of relations is necessary to frustrate the U.S. peace efforts, which do not give a role either to Syria or to the PLO.

Attempt To Kill PLO Envoy in Athens Reported

NC2804152488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] In a statement released a short time ago in Athens, the PLO has declared that Israeli intelligence attempted to assassinate a member of the Palestinian mission in the Greek capital last night.

The PLO pointed out that the diplomat, 'Ismat Sabri, is the first secretary at the mission and that the gunmen who attacked him escaped after failing in their attempt.

According to the PLO statement, the Greek authorities detained a gunman at Athens Airport as he was trying to leave the country.

It is to be recalled that 'Abduh Muhammad Qasim, a South Yemeni businessman, was assassinated in Athens this morning when two gunmen opened fire at him.

OPEC Affairs

King Fahd Cautions Against Oil Price War

LD281655 Vienna OPECNA in English 1415 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Apr 88 (OPECNA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has cautioned against the consequences of an increase in oil production as not only will it result in lower revenues but bring no benefit to producing states.

He said in a newspaper interview published here Thursday that oil producers had nothing to gain from a price war and an increase in oil production.

The king said the preservation of the production ceiling by OPEC would mean the preservation of the reference price, which was inclined to rise if the ceiling was maintained.

He advised non-OPEC producers to limit production in the interest of stable prices.

Iraqi Minister Arrives in Vienna for Meeting

JN281633 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 28, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi today arrived here leading a delegation to attend the consultative meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) opening here later today.

The meeting will consider a proposal by six non-OPEC producers on reducing their oil production by five percent and inviting OPEC to take similar action for boosting oil prices.

The OPEC Price Monitoring Committee over the past two days held meetings with representatives of the six countries that culminated on this proposal.

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives in Vienna 28 Apr

LD281806 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 28, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation to participate in the OPEC consultative session.

Oil ministers of the 13-member organization are to hold the first consultative session at the OPEC Secretariat here to study a proposal for a five percent cut in the production ceiling of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers.

Over the past few days Vienna has been the scene of several meetings between OPEC members and six non-OPEC oil producers, with the latter agreeing to a five-percent or 185,000 BPD [barrels per day] cut in their production ceiling provided that OPEC, too, reduces its daily output by 5 percent or 700,000 barrels per day.

The proposal if endorsed by the two sides will not only stabilize the oil cartel but will also increase prices to at least dlrs 18 p/b.

Deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili is already there in the Austrian capital since the last few days attending the talks.

In related news, Aqazadeh held separate talks with his Algerian and Venezuelan counterparts here today on the first consultative session due to be held Thursday night.

Welcomes Outcome of Talks

LD281811 Vienna OPECNA in English 1547 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, 28 Apr (OPECNA)—Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh has welcomed the "positive outcome" of the OPEC/non-OPEC meeting which ended here Wednesday night.

Aqazadeh, who flew in from Tehran for today's OPEC consultative conference, told OPECNA in an interview that Iran saw the OPEC/non-OPEC contact as the first step in a longer-term cooperation arrangement.

The minister said Iran had always advocated cooperation among oil producing countries and was happy to see that a good start had been made in that direction.

He wouldn't say if he had brought any specific proposals to the OPEC conference.

Indonesian Oil Minister Advocates Cooperation

LD281753 Vienna OPECNA in English 1421 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, 28 Apr (OPECNA)—Cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing developing countries within a "framework of practical arrangements" can bring about stability to the oil market, according to Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

In an interview with OPECNA today, he expressed confidence that given OPEC/non-OPEC cooperation, the desired stability could be achieved even without cooperation from consuming countries.

"This is not a threat," he stressed, "but simply an effort to refute those who are saying that parleys between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries will not be successful."

The minister was commenting on a statement by U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington who during his recent tour of southeast [words indistinct] said that the OPEC-/non-OPEC meeting which ended on a positive note Wednesday, was "doomed to failure".

The minister said what was called the "marginal barrel" was in the hands of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries of the developing world.

He added that the developing world held the potential for the development of the world's future oil supplies, as reserves in the industrialized countries were depleting.

According to the minister, the same situation prevailed in the oil producing countries of centrally planned economies.

"I also cannot agree with those which refer to OPEC as a 'cartel', as the organization groups countries and not oil companies. We only design policies, while the oil trade is done by our companies, which have no organizational links with each other," he added.

Ginanjar said Herrington's views were influenced by the "free market philosophy", which actually did not exist any more, even in the United States.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Call From PDRY Leader

LD282344 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and the party's secretary-general, received a telephone call this evening from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, the chairman of the PDRY'S Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Prime Minister 27 Apr

LD281115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Algeria met yesterday with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and handed him a message from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi concerning the Zionist regime of Iraq's inhuman crime of attacking the defenseless people of Halabjah with chemical weapons.

According to the report, in this meeting Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi expressed his great regret at this tragic crime and said: Algeria stands beside the Islamic Republic of Iran in condemning the use of chemical weapons.

Egypt

Government Supports Saudi Break With Iran

NC2804150688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) — An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt fully supports Saudi Arabia's decision to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran.

The source said that Saudi Arabia had been patient for a long time before coming to this decision. It had tried to give the rulers in Tehran a chance to abandon their policy of provocation, threats, and hegemony, to act in accordance with the true principles of peace, and to pursue the policy of goodneighborliness that is laid down in international conventions and norms.

The rulers of Iran, however, (?persisted) in their erroneous policy and disregarded the international community's calls to stop the war, the source continued. Indeed, they resorted to expanding the scope of tension and armed conflict to include the entire region, the source declared.

They also violated the Islamic sanctities during the last pilgrimage season. They are still declaring their determination to foment anarchy during the coming pilgrimage season, the source stated.

The source pointed out that Iran's policy has caused it to be isolated and to lose its friendship with the peoples and governments of the world.

The source expressed the hope that Tehran will reconsider its calculations; adopt a sound, balanced policy; and seek to pursue a new course instead of the provocative one it is now following.

Joint Communique Issued on CSSR Visit

NC2904061488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 88

["Text" of joint communique on visit by CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek; issued in Cairo on 28 April]

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—At the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek paid an official visit to Egypt from 25 to 28 April 1988.

During an audience with President Husni Mubarak, the Czechoslovak foreign minister handed the president a message from Czechoslovak Communist Party Secretary General Milos Jakes. The Czechoslovak foreign minister was also received by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The talks between the two foreign ministers were conducted in a friendly atmosphere and dealt with all aspects of bilateral relations and current international issues.

It was noted that Czechoslovak-Egyptian relations are progressing satisfactorily within a framework of full respect for the principles of equality and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, as well as concern for the common interest.

The two countries expessed their appreciation for the progress made in all aspects of cooperation and called for further development in the political, economic, cultural, and scientific fields which would favor both countries and peoples.

They stressed the need to look for new ways of diversifying and expanding their economic ties and, within this context, welcomed the agreement signed between the Egyptian Businessmen's Society and the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce.

The two countries also agreed to promote cooperation between their Foreign Ministries and diplomatic missions through the exchange of visits and consultations on issues of mutual interest.

Both Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Bohuslav Chnoupek welcomed the Geneva accords on the political settlement in Afghanistan, which it is hoped will lead to national reconciliation on the basis of the Afghan people's right to determine their own future.

The two ministers voiced their satisfaction with the accords signed last year between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of short- and medium-range nuclear missiles.

They pointed out that these accords should pave the way to further agreements on nuclear and chemical disarmament, nuclear test bans, and reduction in military spending.

They expressed their hope that the next summit conference scheduled for May and June would be an opportunity for further progress toward achieving these goals.

The two ministers also voiced hope for real progress in formulating a balanced and comprehensive document during the follow-up meeting on European security and cooperation scheduled to be held in Vienna.

This meeting should contribute to progress in disarmament and to the perpetuation of trust, security, and peace in Europe and the world as a whole. Within this framework, the Czechoslovak initiative submitted by Milos Jakes to create an area of trust, cooperation, and goodneighborliness on the contact line between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries is viewed as a positive step toward peace and security.

The two countries also agreed that Europe's security should be linked to the security of the Mediterranean Basin to convert the latter into a region of peace, security, and cooperation.

The two countries reviewed recent developments in the Middle East and expressed their concern about the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories. They saluted the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and condemned the Israeli army and armed settlers' hideous and inhuman acts against the unarmed civilian population and against women and children.

They also condemned the illegal deportations of Palestinian people from the occupied Arab territories, as well as all the acts of terrorism and political assassinations directed against Palestinian leaders.

The two ministers called for the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and for the recognition and realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

The two ministers reiterated their support for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Both Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Bohuslav Chnoupek voiced their concern over the continuing escalation of the war between Iran and Iraq, expressing regret at the resumption of the war of the cities and the grave civilian losses such a war is causing, as well as at the resumption of marine operations and the attacks on economic targets in the region.

They took notice of the threats this war is generating to world peace and security, stressing the need to take the appropriate measures for a swift implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The two countries expressed their full solidarity with the African countries in their struggle for development and progress, and voiced their appreciation for the OAU role in this respect.

They condemned the inhuman policy of apartheid adopted by the racist regime of South Africa, as well as its acts of aggression against its independent neighboring countries.

They also expressed their full support to the people of Namibia in their legitimate struggle under the leadership of SWAPO for the national liberation of the people of southern Africa. The two sides hailed the role played by the countries of the Nonaligned Movement in seeking peace, disarmament, and a new international system.

The Czech foreign minister expressed his sincere thanks to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and to the Egyptian Government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality which he and the delegation accompanying him enjoyed during their stay in Egypt.

Mr Bohuslav Chnoupek extended an invitation to Dr 'Abd al-Majid to pay an official visit to Czechoslovakia, which Dr 'Abd al-Majid gladly accepted. The date for the visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Domestic Issues

JN281227 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
22 Apr 88 pp 14-35

["Interview of the Week" with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi by a group of AL-MUSAWWAR correspondents held in two sessions, the first at the Prime Ministry and the second at the Al-Hilal Publishing House in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MUSAWWAR: We begin by asking about what is rumored, regrettably, on the Egyptian street. Although we have different views, we believe the prime minister himself should answer such things.

It is rumored that there is an intellectual crisis within the cabinet, and that the cabinet is not united on Egypt's problems. The claim is corroborated by the differences that arose at the People's Assembly recently over the policies of the tourism minister.

It is also rumored that the cabinet cannot achieve the main objective of this particular government; namely, the creation of an integrated and harmonious team.

It is also rumored that the cabinet's collective responsibility is not clear and well-defined. Finally, it is rumored that the selection of many ministers was to a great extent dictated by personal relationships and by your personal knowledge of certain individuals.

The Prime Minister: First, I would like to make clear that facts are one thing and rumors are another. One will not achieve or contribute anything by following rumors.

The cabinet was formed in November 1986. I can say that from the time it was formed until now the cabinet has been governed by one way of thinking, or at least by similar ways of thinking.

You cannot find one individual who is identical to another. Indeed, it is better that each individual has his views. What is important is that all are united by a single intellectual framework.

I emphasize that such a single intellectual framework prevails completely in the cabinet. That framework is compatible with President Husni Mubarak's thinking and with the principal documents that govern the state's activity, including the Constitution.

Our problem in Egypt is that the various intellectual trends try to interpret the Constitution according to whim. That is wrong. Our task as a government and state is to adhere to the thinking or philosophy that prevails in the Constitution.

I can go into some detail because you have raised very important points. We in Egypt have opted for the middle-of-the-road line, neither right nor left. By right I mean the extremist right and by left I mean the extremist left.

We are in the center. All the articles of our Constitution confirm that in social relations, and even in political relations, it is a Constitution of the center.

It recognizes and emphasizes private ownership. It recognizes and emphasizes public ownership. It recognizes and emphasizes cooperative ownership. The three types of ownership exist and are respected, and we must establish a balance among them.

Some of the extremist left advocate public ownership only and the extremist right advocates private ownership only. Other ideas appear on the arena every now and then.

However, the Constitution knows its way very well, the middle-of-the-road way, a reconciliatory way that combines and reconciles these three types of ownership.

It is clear from its policy that the state, led by President Mubarak, has opted for the centrist path in resolving all problems. It is an accommodating framework that combines economic, social, and political necessities.

That means the main objective of our work is to raise the people's standard and to increase the rate of development so as to achieve further prosperity for all people.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You were very frank and clear when you explained that we may be subjected to some commodity crises. However, you also explained that unifying the exchange rate will lead to an influx of foreign currency.

Nevertheless, the minister of supply complains that he does not have enough liquidity to meet needs. The health minister also complains about the lack of credits, which makes him unable to meet the country's medicinal needs.

Moreover, we, as newsmen, complain about the high price of paper. What is the magnitude of the current influx, how is it handled, and what are the priorities?

The Prime Minister: The average influx for the free banking market is $9.5-10 million a day. In previous periods, this figure did not exceed $150,000-200,000 a day.

The $10 million sum is the net daily income of the free banking market as a result of transfers. Before the free banking market was established last May, there were no available resources for numerous sectors, be they factories, war production, or other sectors.

As a result, industry was about to stop. But, despite the presence of the banking market, half the income of tourism still leaks to other markets, although there are banks which operate for 24 hours and other banks even operate all week.

Now, our revenues from the banking market's transfers reach $3 billion a year. The revenues from the Suez Canal and oil also amount to $3 billion. However, the problem is that our import needs are approximately $9 billion.

AL-MUSAWWAR: The government says 50 percent of the income of tourism still leaks outside the banking market. How does this take place?

The Prime Minister: The problem is that some tourism companies do not pay back the sum which the tourist has paid in dollars in accordance with the available "C" form. What happens is that the tourism offices only pay half of the sum and sometimes not at all.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are these violators caught?

The Prime Minister: They are caught and punished. We have recently caught many violators.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You have said that our revenues from the banking market are $3 billion and there is $3 billion more from the Suez Canal and oil, so our income is $6 billion at a time when our needs amount to $9 billion.

This forces you to face priorities. When foreign currency is disbursed, what are the priorities?

The Prime Minister: The priorities focus on providing foodstuffs and intermediate commodities, in addition to the investment commodities which we were previously importing through grants and loans. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Prime Minister, last week you held talks with the IMF. Leaks from these talks were limited. However, it was said the IMF accepted the government view that economic reform be taken over a long period of time and not all at once.

Some said 7 years and others said 4 years. What is the nature of the current problem with the IMF? Have we reached a genuine agreement?

The Prime Minister: Economic reform for a country such as ours is economic development. Economic development means improving the standard of living for all the people, not for a certain category or class. Work should be provided, as well as a dignified life, houses, education, medical treatment—all this.

As you know, in the year 1985/1986, there was a very big decline in foreign currency resources in Egypt. We need these foreign currency resources for many things. We need them to meet production requirements, to purchase some food which we do not obtain as assistance, to repay foreign commitments, etc.

This decline has continued. The problem was made worse by a number of factors: basically the drop in oil prices, the decline in the price of primary materials, terrorism, the decline in tourism, political pressure, transfers by Egyptians to foreign countries, and ignoring the problem since 1974/1975, that is, since the beginning of the open-door policy.

The economic reform should have started then, when Egypt's foreign currency resources had grown big. We started 11 years later; so what can we do?

This was in June 1986, before my government came to office. They said: To ease pressure on the balance of payments, you must try to reschedule foreign debts. To give you an idea of the immensity of this debt, the burden of the annual foreign public debt is no less than $5 billion, both in installments and interest.

How can you pay this when your oil price has gone down, your tourism has been shaken, and transfers by Egyptians do not arrive for many reasons, the most important of which is that the price of the dollar transferred by Egyptians abroad is estimated at 80 piasters while it is sold by banks abroad at 190-210 piasters.

Negotiations between Egypt and the IMF began on the basis that the IMF would help us reschedule the debts. How did this process start? It started because the Western countries to whom we owe most of our debts agreed between themselves not to reschedule the debts of any country unless the IMF certifies that its economy is moving in the correct direction.

Thus, came the idea of economic reform. A country goes to the IMF and says: I am tired. The IMF says: You are tired for the following reasons, and to get rid of this you must do so and so, so that a guarantee certificate can be issued and the debts can be rescheduled by the creditor countries.

At the beginning we had trouble, until this government came. We came in November 1986. Fortunately or unfortunately, my first day in office, 14 November 1986, representatives of the IMF were here.

We took the oath in the morning and went to the People's Assembly at noon. A telephone call came to say that they were in Egypt. Fortunately, I knew the problem because I was linked to the subject.

I discovered that their points of discussion are a prescription. One with a cough is given a prescription; one with pneumonia is given a prescription; one with kidney failure is given a prescription. This prescription is one, two, three, etc.

When we sat with the IMF representatives, the first thing they wanted was for us to push a button, turn the country upside down, and resolve the problems. We said this is impossible.

There was a big disagreement with them. They insisted on the one-thrust prescription or one-shock prescription. We said no. We want rescheduling and must move gradually.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What are the most important points of difference?

The Prime Minister: The first point is the rate of exchange. As you know, we used to have two tiers for foreign currency: the commercial banks tier and the Central Bank tier.

At the commercial banks, the dollar's exchange rate was 135 piasters, whereas the Central Bank still maintained it at 70 piasters. They said this must be cancelled and that prices should be based on supply and demand.

In November and December the dollar was exchanged for approximately 2 pounds in the market.

The second point: They said our fuel prices are 15 percent of world prices and should be increased to 100 percent of world prices.

The third point: They said our interest rate is low and, consequently, it must be raised so that it will at least conform with the inflation rate of 20-25 percent.

The fourth point is related to the general budget deficit, which was estimated at approximately 17.5 percent of national production: They said it must be reduced by at least 10 percent.

Moreover, they presented endless demands: raise taxes, increase the prices of the public sector's commodities and products, raise the power consumption tariff, and impose a tax on consumption.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Did these demands include a request not to appoint graduates?

The Prime Minister: No.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does the IMF stipulate that these demands be implemented all at once?

The Prime Minister: Yes, the IMF demands that they be implemented all at once. Naturally, we sat with them as an integrated Egyptian team rather than the old way of negotiating with the concerned ministers working separately.

Hence, when I took office as prime minister, I formed a working team to negotiate with the IMF under my chairmanship. This team still negotiates with them.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Who are the members of this team?

The Prime Minister: The team consists of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Salah Hamid, Central Bank governor; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr Yusri Mustafa, economic minister; Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, finance minister; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and a group of experts.

We held meetings among ourselves before we began negotiations with the IMF. We rejected their demand that we implement all their requests simultaneously.

Another issue is that we, the members of the working team, agreed among ourselves on the minimum limit for reforming the national economy as we view it, regardless of their demands.

The most serious problem facing us was the shortage of foreign currency revenues. Indeed, industry, agriculture,, and commerce were threatened with cessation. Therefore, we focused on resolving the foreign currency problem.

We have two tiers: the commercial banks tier and the Central Bank tier. The Central Bank tier is responsible for financing such commodities as flour, wheat, tea, and sugar—the financing of which is to the benefit of the people.

We decided not to touch all that and concentrated all our efforts on the commercial banks tier. We found it to be "empty." No one came near it, and its resources did not exceed $200,000 or $300,000 a day.

That sum represents the total of the $150-sums paid by tourists upon their entry into Egypt by land, sea, or air. After discussion we decided to gradually transfer the transactions of the commercial banks tier to the free banking market.

That is our thinking, not the IMF's. We increased the dollar rate by one piaster over the black market rate. The dollar became 217 instead of 216 piasters. We began by transferring the less important transactions.

The result was that foreign currency resources increased from $200,000 or $300,000 to $9.5 million or $10 million a day.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What was the IMF's reaction to these measures?

The Prime Minister: The IMF asked us to begin to reach an understanding with our creditor countries. We reached an agreement at the Paris Club on 22 May 1987 on rescheduling debts (a 5-year period of grace followed by a 5-year period of payment).

Of course, interest rates remain the same. As I have always said, it is an agreement on deferring payment, not on exemption from the debt or writing it off. We reached agreement with all the creditor countries, with the exception of two.

This is with regard to the commercial banks tier. As for the Central Bank tier, we told the IMF there is no room for discussion now, but we can discuss it after some time.

That was in 1987. We are still trying to reach an understanding with the IMF on the Central Bank tier and we have not met any of their requests in that regard. They have been pressing us since last week to move the dollar rates complex from the Central Bank.

I am not against that as a general principle. Indeed, on the contrary, it is in the interest of the national economy to unify exchange rates, but it is the timing and the staggering that require thought.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is the IMF asking that it should be done in one go, or do they agree to staggering?

The Prime Minister: They believe in the single-shock policy.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In any case, what was the Egyptian stand on the matter?

The Prime Minister: We refused to do what they asked. We asked them to stagger the measures over a period of 10 years. Negotiations between them and us on this issue are continuing even now.

AL-MUSAWWAR: It has been reported that they agreed to a 7-year period.

The Prime Minister: No, they have not yet accepted that.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Therefore, the government has not met the IMF request on increasing exchange rates in the Central Bank tier?

The Prime Minister: We did not move the Central Bank tier last year at all.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And what about energy prices?

The Prime Minister: Last year we adjusted energy prices so as not to compromise the small consumers whose monthly consumption is estimated at 300 kilowatt hours.

At the same time, energy prices increased for big consumers. Diesel fuel prices were very low, so we increased them a little. As for interest rates, we turned down their demand that they be increased, as it would have meant increasing the burden on investment and hampering the development process.

We, therefore, did not touch interest rates. As for the budget, we adopted some measures that did not unduly inconvenience the public. We just put up the stamped paper. The IMF would have liked the government to decide on a hundred measures, but we insisted that we can only adopt so many.

As for the price system in the public sector in particular, we have allowed for a readjustment of prices of some consumer items, such as television sets, refrigerators, gas stoves, and electrical appliances. This is the price exacted by the IMF for rescheduling our debts.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What were the surprises that you came up against during this period?

The Prime Minister: Despite increased revenues, the state budget deficit has held steady around 14.5 percent.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why is that?

The Prime Minister: The World Bank, along with the creditor nations, was supposed to have paid $800 million to finance electricity projects. The IMF was supposed to have paid $320 million.

But, they made the first payment and failed to make the second. More importantly, the countries which signed the rescheduling agreement with us were supposed to hold back from demanding any installment or interest after the broad agreement was signed.

As it happened, however, when payment of an installment to the United States came due we had not yet signed a bilateral agreement. They insisted that it be settled.

France too, with which we had a contract to purchase a product, said we had to pay as this was a downpayment rather than an installment. We thus found ourselves paying $780 million last year that we were not supposed to pay.

So, revenues declined when $800 million was supposed to come from the World Bank, which said the new energy price increase was not enough. If we had had access to the sum we had paid ($780 million) and the sum we expected the World Bank to pay ($800 million) the budget deficit of nearly 13 percent would have been possible.

Things were improving until the IMF began the process of revision for the coming year after they had rescheduled the debts and dues between 1 January 1987 and the end of June 1988 over and above arrears of previous year.

Our debts must be rescheduled twice if we are to pay our debts from our export revenues or those of various development projects.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What took place in this regard?

The Prime Minister: Since last October, the IMF has been coming to Cairo to talk about its projects and requirements in the coming stage. Our response was:

You did not do what you pledged to do in the previous stage. The IMF said: We did. We said: No, you did not. The dialogue continued in this way. Finally, we told them: We cannot meet your demands.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What are the IMF demands in the current stage which began last October?

The Prime Minister: They want the Central Bank to raise the exchange rate. They want another increase in energy prices. They want an increase in the interest rate. They want specific measures in the budget.

We told them we cannot do these things immediately. We can move in this direction gradually over 10 years with regard to some demands and over 5 years with regard to others.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Has the IMF shown a general acceptance of this logic?

The Prime Minister: When I talked with the IMF last week I felt they were indicating acceptance. But, regrettably, I discovered through a telephone contact with Dr Salah Hamid, who is currently in Washington, that they are rediscussing the ideas and demands which we have been discussing since last October and up until today.

We will wait and see what they will demand. I would like to affirm here that we endorse the measures of economic reform because they are only in the interest of Egypt. We will do nothing unless we are 100 percent certain it is in Egypt's interest.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In light of the prime minister's precise reply, we now have a clear, accurate, and definite picture of Egypt's story with the IMF. But, did the government and the IMF differ on the following point?

The government believes that there is an increase in the GNP, bank notes are not being issued, and there are limited payment methods in society. This situation prompted you to increase wages by 10 percent?

The Prime Minister: This point in particular was one of the most positive points in the economic reform program. Reliance on the banks for financing reached its minimum level during the past 10 years. The monetary expansion [al-Tawasu' al-Naqdi], which was 44 percent, became 8.6 percent in 1987.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does this mean that the government can really increase wages based on the increase in the real GNP without resorting to issuing bank notes?

The Prime Minister: There should be no great expectations for wages from true resources or from a budget deficit. It will not be in the citizen's interest to increase wages because it will result in sudden and unacceptable price increases. Consequently, one point in the present discussion must be completed. I explained this matter in detail to the president.

The reform to be effected in the wage structure can be brought about by introducing reforms into the job structure as a whole. We discovered that this reform, which is required and needed, would cost 1.2 billion Egyptian pounds if it were put into effect at one time.

Therefore, we deemed it appropriate to study the possibility of putting it into effect gradually, as this would enable us to know what step we can put into effect in the coming budget, within the framework of a comprehensive plan that seeks to improve wages in a manner that is compatable with the reform introduced in jobs. This plan will be applied gradually in early July so that payable wages do not increase very rapidly, as this would increase inflation.

To bring about a genuine reform and wage increase, financing must be based on the use of real assets and not on the issuance of banknotes, which serve no purpose once we resort to using real assets. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Let us move to another issue. Your Excellency displayed courage at the People's Assembly when you spoke defending the continuation of the emergency law and shouldered personal responsibility for the implementation of the law only within the framework delineated by the government.

You also said that there will be judicial supervision of the implementation of any measure enshrined in this law. The question posed is how can the Council of Ministers supervise the measures carried out by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior to ensure that the pledges that you yourself made at the People's Assembly will be honored? Another question is who will supervise the government to make sure that the government is honoring its pledges?

The Prime Minister: The government operates under the supervision of the president of the Republic and the People's Assembly. I would like to affirm to you—this is a matter of which you are well aware and I know about which you are also well-informed—that the president himself follows up everything, even the daily functions carried out by the government.

As for the issue of the emergency law, the People's Assembly before which I made the aforementioned pledges can supervise by submitting requests to interpellate me personally, as well as the interior minister.

I cannot find any supervision stronger and stricter than this. You are a witness to the atmosphere of freedom that permeates the sessions held by the People's Assembly.

Besides, the opposition parties have their newspapers, which can publish whatever they wish. This freedom to publish all that these newspapers desire is more than that granted to similar newspapers in democratic states, and this does not embarrass us at all.

As for myself personally, I will follow up any complaint lodged in this regard with the interior minister and with any other official whoever he may be.

AL-MUSAWWAR: When the interior minister applies the emergency law in a certain situation, will he inform the Council of Ministers or you before implementing this law?

The Prime Minister: He is supposed to inform the public prosecution after the passage of a certain period of time following his implementation of the emergency law.

AL-MUSAWWAR: He must inform you personally, especially after you made pledges to the effect that this law will be applied in only certain agreed upon cases?

The Prime Minister: When the issue is important, the interior minister will inform me of it. Such issues are followed up by the government.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are you not thinking of increasing the volume of judicial supervision over the application of the emergency law?

The Prime Minister: Judicial supervision actually exists. All those to whom the law is applicable should be sent to the public prosecution and to the judiciary within a period of time not exceeding a month.

In this regard, the Egyptian emergency law gives the citizen a protection that does not exist in many laws in even the most democratic states, such as France, Germany, England, and Italy.

Opinions may differ over the application of the emergency law in Egypt, as was the case in some articles, but who decides whether the emergency law is necessary or not?

What characterizes the emergency law is not its being better or worse; what characterizes it is the fact that it gives the government a discretionary [taqdiriyah] power under the supervision of the judiciary to take the necessary precautionary measures to protect society from a certain danger.

The emergency law was applied in Egypt following the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat. This was followed by the Asyut incidents. These matters are very serious.

Some might say that terrorist acts took place with the emergency law, such as the attempts to assassinate [former Egyptian interior ministers] Al-Nabawi Isma'il and Hasan Abu Basha and [AL-MUSAWWAR chief editor] Makram Muhammad Ahmad, and the [book] fair and Al-Ma'adi road incidents vis-a-vis the Israelis and Americans.

All this confirms that there is a danger and that this danger may recur. These incidents occurred despite the emergency law. How would things be if that law did not exist?

However, I would like to stress to you that the emergency law is not being used outside this framework, and I will be ready to immediately investigate any incident to the contrary.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You emphasize that there were no encroachments on this law outside the goals from which it began and those fixed for it by the government.

The Prime Minister: There were no violations outside the framework of the goals for which this law was enacted. These goals are protecting the country from terrorism and violence, as well as the goals specified by the law as stated in the explanatory memorandum.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But are you certain that the government will be ready to reconsider the interior minister's position if it is proved that there is an encroachment upon this law?

The Prime Minister: Yes, if it is proven that there has been an encroachment upon this law.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Mr Prime Minister, it seems there are two trends: The opposition believes that the economic problem is a symptom of the democratic problem. The opposition also believes that if we change the Constitution the economic problem will be resolved at once.

The government, on the other hand, believes that the economic problem is the basis. What does the government think of these two trends?

The Prime Minister: Among the constitutions of the developed countries, the Egyptian Constitution is very balanced. When committees were formed in 1971 to draft the Constitution, I was charged with drafting the economic and social components of society.

In light of this, I can say that the Constitution, in its present form, is very balanced. Any encroachment on the basic balances in the Constituion will harm more than it will benefit.

The existing balances in the Constitution between the various state authorities and types of property ownership were not drafted from a vacuum, but from a specific economic and social reality in Egypt. This reality imposed itself on the governing constitutional texts drafted in 1971.

The economic problem is strongly linked with the political situation. I say frankly that the political stability which has been achieved during the past 7 years, led to the economic edifice which could not have been established had it not been for the planning in the agricultural and industrial fields in addition to the infrastructure of this period.

If we go back, we will find that we faced circumstances and wars which were imposed on us. Naturally, the largest part of our resources were spent on war. Now, the main concentration is directed to the national economy.

Immense efforts were exerted to tackle problems accumulated over the years. The economic reform which is currently underway in Egypt should have started in the wake of the 1973 war, at the beginning of the open-door eocnomic policy.

The economic reform policy, which began in 1985-1986, is tackling the problems realistically, away from fantasy. This real confrontation imposed on us bitter solutions, which we had to accept without hesitation.

I am among the first to respect the opposition. However, I have a comment about what goes on in the opposition papers, which I respect and appreciate. We find that these papers erect smoke screens around the earnest work we are doing, as well as making certain predictions to cloud our efforts.

I made more than one appeal for an end to this. I do not object to answering any question frankly and clearly because ultimately this will be in everyone's interest.

When a paper publishes something which is not true on sensitive issues related to the economy it is in fact distorting the truth. The economy is based on confidence.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Would you give us examples of this?

The Prime Minister: They said, for example, that the government submitted to the IMF, whereas in fact we only implemented that of which we were convinced. They also said that there are secret articles in the agreements concluded by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah in Washington. These are only speculations by an editor or a writer.

On this occasion I would like to say that I am ready to see any journalist who wants to ask about any subject, and I will tell him the whole truth. If some matters should not be announced I will ask him not to publish them.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why do you not accept representatives of the opposition papers in the Council of Ministers?

The Prime Minister: They have the right to come to the Council of Ministers and the People's Assembly.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In 1981 the agricultural growth rate was about 1.5 percent, the industrial growth rate barely 3 percent. Admittedly our overall growth rate amounted to between 9 to 10 percent. But this is accountable to revenues from petroleum and the Suez Canal. What are the current production rates?

The Prime Minister: The agricultural growth rate is approximately 3 percent, which is not bad, the industrial growth rate approximately 9.5 percent and the overall growth rate approximately 7 percent.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you rate the 7 percent figure good?

The Prime Minister: For developing countries this is a high figure. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Despite the fact that the agricultural reform program is under way, statistics point to increased unemployment.

The Prime Minister: This year we provided 200,000 jobs in the government and public sector for 1982 university entrants. The private and investment sectors took on roughly the same number.

As of now I believe we have found jobs for all university graduates up to 1983. I would reemphasize that the only way to increase job opportunities and to absorb unemployment is to widen the production base. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the new formula of Egyptian-Sudanese relations in light of previous experience? Did your recent visit to Sudan show that the two countries are going down the road of real cooperation?

The Prime Minister: I returned from Sudan in an optimistic mood. We found the Sudanese particularly understanding as far as Egypt's importance for Sudan is concerned. Sudan and Egypt have historic ties.

Furthermore, [Nile] waters make them mutually indispensable. Frankly speaking, Sudanese-Egyptian relations were for too long in the past governed more by emotion than logic.

There's nothing wrong with emotions, family, or other such ties. But, quite frankly, we must bring into existence common interests. There are joint water interests that everybody appreciates.

Our common interests can be best served in agriculture, industry, and commerce. These areas have lately been receiving their due attention, with both sides convinced this is the right path.

We are now partners in the Sudanese-Egyptian Agricultural Company, concerned with reclaiming and planting land. A decision has been made to raise its capital and expand the field of its operations.

Agreement has also been reached to establish a holding company to build joint projects. Trade was governed by an unrealistic exchange rate resulting in the movement of trade in one direction.

In the last meeting, a new trade agreement was signed and agreement was reached to adjust the exchange rate. If we did not work out absolutely real prices, we came a step closer, thus facilitating trade between Egypt and Sudan.

Communications have also been improved. Communications between Cairo and Khartoum are now easier. We have also agreed to pay attention to the roads linking us with Sudan and to complete them. Implementation will begin soon. Indeed, we worked out a timetable.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you think personal sensitivities between Egypt and Sudan have disappeared?

The Prime Minister: I sensed a good atmosphere in Sudan and felt that our ties are developing. There is a shared conviction of the importance of Egyptian-Sudanese relations. I am fully satisfied with what I saw in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Sworn in as Prime Minister 28 Apr

JN281906 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Apr (SUNA)—This morning, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was sworn in as prime minister before the State Council and the deputy head of the judiciary. Following the swearing-in ceremony the prime minister met with the Council.

The prime minister then spoke to the press and said the Council had examined the prospects for Sudan playing a role in normalizing relations between Egypt and Libya.

The viewpoints of the country's various political forces have been brought much closer, he said. Al-Mahdi indicated that he had made it clear to Father Surur's group that he was bound by all the agreements signed and that the relationship between state and religion, the state structure, and the system of government, will be put before the constitutional congress.

Al-Mahdi said Muslims are entitled to apply the provisions of their faith to themselves as long as this does not compromise the civic, human, and religious rights of others.

The prime minister emphasized that the presence of African blocs in the opposition will not hamper peace efforts, noting that southern deputies make up a third of the new government.

Al-Mahdi denied that the government will use its majority to impose Islamic laws, stressing that government parties will see to it that decisions are taken after thorough consultations and in a democratic way.

He charged that elements of the international media carry slanted reports about Sudan without a proper perspective of the influences swaying some politicians in southern Sudan.

Al-Mahdi criticized the portrayal of the conflict as one between a Muslim north and Christian south. Speaking on the cabinet lineup, the prime minister said agreement has been reached on most of the portfolios with the exception of two or three which will be allotted soon.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Amr al-Dayim, who attended the swearing-in ceremony, has said that the Constituent Assembly will, during its Saturday evening session, elect all its committees, their chairmen, and other affiliated bodies. All the parties have agreed on giving the Assembly's chairmanship to the National Islamic Front, he said.

To Announce New Cabinet 1 May

JN291059 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April, 29, (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said his new cabinet will be officially announced next Sunday following the election of the Constituent Assembly speaker.

The representative of the southern region Aldo Ago Deng, who conferred with Al-Mahdi here yesterday, told daily newspapers issued today. [sentence as received]

Deng, in a press statement said the reconciliation government will pay attention to famine affected people in the southern region and it will work for solving the southern question.

Refugees Desert Southern Region for Capital

JN281207 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 28 apr 88

[Text] Khartoum Apr 28 (SUNA)—About 200 thousand displaced people from the Southern Region have arrived at the national capital after they stopped cultivation and lost their properties due to the war in the region, member of the Constituent Assembly Aldo Ago Deng told AL-SIYASAH Newspaper.

He said that all the immigrants came from the Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal regions which was severely affected by the famine caused by the civil war.

Rebels Claim 23 Government Troops Killed
EA281524 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] SPLA forces in southern Kordofan under the overall command of Commander Yusuf Kuwan Makki attacked Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's regular troops and militia in the Abu Jabrah area on 14th April 1988: 23 of them were killed and 9 wounded from the regular forces and 7 killed and 4 wounded form Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's tribal Arab militia.

The SPLA destroyed 1 Land Rover and 2 tanks and captured 32 GM-3 rifles that were left behind with the dead as the enemy fled in disarray to Abu Jabrah. [passage omitted]

Paper Cited on Party Memo, Assembly Session
JN281529 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 28 apr 88

[Text] Since yesterday, memorandums have begun to express the deputies' opposition to details of the agreement forming the new government. Following the memorandum of the Al-Ummah Party deputies, which opposed the National Islamic Front [NIF] presidency of the Assembly, the deputies of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] prepared a memorandum addressed to the party's leader.

In this memorandum they expressed their objection to NIF presidency of the Assembly, their commitment to the national reconciliation charter without any alterations, and their rejection of any time limit for submitting substitute laws to the Constituent Assembly, in addition to the postponement of all differences regarding Islamic punishment until the convocation of the constitutional conference.

This was reported today by the independent newspaper AL-AYYAM. The paper also said that the DUP memorandum declared the signatory deputies' belief in the need to give a share in the government to the southern parties and the Sudanese National Party.

The paper said that, up until yesterday, more than 20 members had signed the memorandum. They were headed by Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, DUP secretary general; Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, DUP deputy secretary general; advocate 'Uthman 'Umar; and Dr Ahmad Bilal. A DUP source speculated that more than 30 deputies supported the memorandum, but some had not yet signed it.

On the other hand, a total of 38 deputies abstained from attending last night's assembly session in which the prime minister was elected. The session was attended by 222 members out of 260.

It was noted that a number of senior members of the DUP, the former ally of the Al-Ummah Party, were absent. These were headed by Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi; Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, DUP deputy secretary general; and Al-Zayn Hamid, the Assembly's controller.

The Assembly will hold a session next Saturday to complete certain measures, including the election of the Assembly speaker. The Islamic Front still insists on the election of Ahmad Sulayman to the post.

According to AL-AYYAM, parliamentary sources said that, for legal reasons, he cannot be elected as the speaker's position has not yet been declared vacant.

The Constituent Assembly held its session at 2200 yesterday instead of 1200, following the conclusion of consultations with the Islamic Front. The Front has dropped its demand to give priority to the election of the Assembly speaker, a post contested by Ahmad Sulayman, and agreed to conduct the vote for the premiership—yesterday—and the vote for Assembly speaker at a later session.

Tunisia

House Passes Law on Political Parties
LD290332 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Yesterday [28 April] the House of Deputies resumed its work of discussing the basic law on the organization of political parties.

At the beginning of this session, which was chaired by Rachid Sfar, Speaker of the House, and attended by a number of cabinet members as well as by Mr Abdel-Aziz Ben Dhia, chairman of the Constitutional Council, the House discussed each article of the draft law.

The government responded to the proposal of a number of deputies concerning the first article, whose draft became as follows: A party is a political organization among Tunisian citizens who are linked, for reasons other than profit, by political principles, opinions, and aims.

The House ratified this article with one deputy opposing and another abstaining.

After discussion, the second article became as follows: The political party works within the framework of constitutional legitimacy and law, and should, in particular, defend the Islamic Arab identity and human rights.

The House ratified this article with one deputy abstaining.

As for the third article, the deputies concluded that its objective is to prevent disintegration in the structure of the society, and no party should be based on these principles. After discussion, the House ratified this article with a majority.

As for the sixth article, the minister of state for justice pointed out that the purpose of forming a party is to serve principles and ideas, and to react to political events for the benefit of the society.

He explained that there is no scope for a party whose purpose is to align one party against another in a spirit of confrontation. A majority of the House then ratified the following draft of the sixth article:

No political party may be formed unless its principles, options, and programs are different from the principles, options, and programs of any other legally recognised party.

Then the House unanimously ratified the seventh article which concerns the necessary conditions which should be met by the founders, directors, and members of any political party.

Concerning queries on the ninth article about public organizations, Mr Slaheddine Baly pointed out that if an organization neglects its duties, then it is possible for the injured party to submit the matter to the courts in order to claim its rights.

In reply to queries on the 10th article, the minister of state said that a decision to refuse a licence should be explained, and if those asking for a licence are not satisfied with the decision of the executive authorities, then the matter may be referred to the relevant administrative court.

He pointed out that, since a rejection must be explained, a group may resubmit its application to form a political party if it avoids the shortcomings on which the rejection was based.

Concerning the 10th article, the minister of state pointed out that this article is to keep Tunisian parties from serving foreign objectives. He pointed out that the Interior Ministry has a department which supervises societies and parties, and it is the authority to which any violations should be reported.

After the deputies ratified each of the various articles of the draft basic law, Mr Rachid Sfar submitted the draft for a general vote, and it was unanimously ratified by the 89 deputies in attendance. Basic laws such as these must be ratified by a majority of two thirds of the members of the House.

On this occasion, Mr Rachid Sfar expressed hopes that the basic law for organizing political parties will usher in a new era in political life based on honest competition which would consolidate the independence, progress, and integrity of Tunisia, to the benefit of the Tunisian people.

He also praised the sincerity shown by the deputies when they discussed this draft in a refreshing dialogue which occupied the House for 2 complete days.

Mestiri on Significance of UN Resolution

PM291317 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 88 p 1

[Khalil Matar report on "statement" by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in New York; precise date not given]

[Excerpts] Arab capitals have received the Security Council resolution which condemned the operation to assassinate Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] without any reference to Israel, and the U.S. abstention from voting on the resolution, with dissatisfaction and regret, especially after the Zionist entity's role in the terrorist assassination operation was confirmed. [passage omitted]

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after the Security Council session and prior to his departure from New York, Mahmoud Mestiri said that if the Israeli attack was aimed at killing the Palestinian resistance by means of killing of Abu Jihad, then Israel must be mad.

He pointed out that it would be naive to think for one moment that the U.S. abstention meant that it had severed its relations with Israel. This is not the important reality.

The great reality is that, for the first time ever, the Palestinians and the Israelis have been mentioned in a statement on equal terms—which is completely different from the basic principle and policy pursued for years.

The security of the Palestinians is now being discussed as a question not of refugees, but of a people, and this indicates a major change—which in itself is an important matter.

He also said: Israel is still celebrating its 40th anniversary, and the Americans have given it a present by signing more agreements. But, despite all this, we can still hear another language, expressing a retreat in the U.S. position.

We expect the Israelis, when they read the statement made by the U.S. representative, to sense that there is something new in the Americans' language. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian minister stressed Tunisia's determination to continue its policy of condemning Israeli aggression and trying to change the view taken by Israel's friends.

He said: With our Arab brothers, we will continue to face and try to convince the Americans; we shall enter this whirlpool again. We shall, obviously, try to achieve our objective—which is not easy.

We are not naive; we understand how difficult it is, but we shall continue to move forward with no fear of the U.S. veto. We are in agreement with the United States although, despite our 30-year-old firm friendship, it is crystal-clear that we are not in agreement over the Middle East problem, because we differ completely over the Palestinian problem. But our friendship still continues regardless.

Mestiri denied the existence of any U.S. pressure on Tunisia. He said: There is no U.S. pressure on us, and the present situation indicates that we are pressuring them. What we have obtained today at the Security Council proves that we have a considerable ability to apply pressure.

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Ordinary Session Begins

Al-Bid Speaks

EA281646 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The 12th ordinary session of the YSP Central Committee began yesterday morning [27 April] under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

The brother secretary general made a speech to the opening session in which he stated that this session has particular significance in that it is meeting as our party and our Yemeni people are preparing for the 25th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the YSP, the celebration of which is of historic importance because of the revolution and the founding of the party. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

With regard to relations between the two parts of the homeland, the brother secretary general stressed the need to continue the joint efforts—exchanging visits, holding meetings, having dialogues and keeping Yemen free of all causes of friction and fighting.

He said the recent visit he and the delegation accompanying him paid to Taizz and the meeting with Brother 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, had thwarted those internal and external forces which are hostile to the Yemeni people and which had been striving to cause friction and draft the two parts into a destructive war.

He said the political leadership in the southern part of the homeland, because of its eagerness to continue unionist efforts and to strengthen brotherly understanding, is striving to resolve differences by peaceful and democratic means.

It also continually seeks to activate the Supreme Yemeni Council, the Joint Ministerial Committee, and the unity committees and to activate joint projects to exploit our natural resources and use them to serve the interests of the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

Communique Issued

EA282322 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The 12th session of the YSP Central Committee ended at noon today. It was held on 27 and 28 April under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

A communique was issued on the session. The principal issues examined by the Central Committee included the conferences of provincial party organizations, the question of Yemeni unity, and the efforts being made to achieve it by peaceful and democratic means.

The Central Committee hailed the organizational and political unity manifested in these conferences. It stressed the need to prepare for conferences of the governorates in the second half of June.

We should overcome negative phenomena, reinvigorate the party and reinforce its role in leading society, it said.

The Central Committee also praised the positive results of the visit that Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, made to Taizz earlier this month.

It emphasized the need to continue the peaceful dialogue and to prevent fighting between the sons of the Yemeni people. It said that all Yemeni soldiers should take up their allotted positions, where they are called upon to defend the homeland and protect its sovereignty.

The Central Committee confirmed its support for the uprising of the Palestinian people. It called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Al-Bid Receives USSR Naval Official 28 Apr

EA282315 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] At noon today Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, had a meeting in his office with Comrade Admiral Sidorov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, who is continuing his visit to Democratic Yemen.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general praised the genuine support which the friendly Soviet Union continues to provide to our country and which helps to reinforce and safeguard our country's economic and defensive capability.

For his part, Comrade Sidorov expressed satisfaction with the level of relations existing between our two countries, parties, and peoples. He said that our country will continue to receive all forms of support and assistance, at all levels, on the basis of the agreement on cooperation between our two friendly countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Interviewed on Terrorism, Hajj, Iran

LD281027 Kuwait KUNA in English 0929 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 28 (KUNA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia said in an interview published here Thursday that Kuwait had set an example in tackling the Kuwaiti airliner hijack ordeal, and proved that terrorism could not be successful under all circumstances.

The Saudi monarch told the editor in chief of AL-SIYASAH newspaper, Ahmed al-Jarallah, that the hijackers of the aircraft must be brought to justice, and urged all peace-loving countries to help Kuwait punish the air pirates.

King Fahd pointed out that he was deeply disturbed by the atrocities committed by the hijackers against the hostages on board the plane, including torture and murder.

He said he felt dutybound to do whatever necessary, including contacts with the Syrian and Algerian presidents, to mitigate the course of the events in the 16-day hair-raising crisis.

The Saudi leader called for effective international measures to combat terrorism, including economic and other sanctions against countries that sponsor terrorism.

A group of nine hijackers, believed to be nine, seized a Kuwaiti jumbo jet on a Bangkok to Kuwait flight on April 5 and forced the plane to land at Mashhad airport in northeast Iran, demanding the release of 17 convicted criminals jailed in Kuwait.

As Kuwait, government and people, refused to give in to their demands, the air pirates killed two hostages during a stop in Larnaca, Cyprus amid an international outcry against their cold-blooded actions.

Turning to hajj (the annual Moslem pilgrimage to holy shrines in Saudi Arabia), King Fahd said the decision to limit the number of pilgrims this year was not a Saudi one but the result of an agreement between Islamic countries and acclaimed Islamic organizations.

He pointed out that Iran stood at odds with 45 Islamic countries which showed understanding to Saudi Arabia's "circumstances in the holy lands."

Saudi Arabia, the monarch said, had told Iran that holy Mecca cannot accomodate the annual large rise in the number of pilgrims, and requested three years to make the necessary preparations.

"We told the Iranians: give us time to make the necessary preparations to accommodate more pilgrims," King Fahd said, adding that "the Iranians also wanted to flout hajj regulations to the disapproval of all Islamic states."

He charged that Iranians sought to occupy the holy Ka'bah, and pointed out that they were confronted not with Saudi security forces, but pilgrims defending the holy shrine.

The monarch delivered a warning to Iran, when he said that Saudi tolerance should not be understood as weakness, "and we do not want them (the Iranians) to try the ability of our people to defend themselves."

Saudi Arabia broke off diplomatic relations with Iran last Tuesday night, saying its patience had run out with Iran's persistent hostilities towards the Kingdom in violation of international laws and norms of conduct between world countries.

Bani-Sadr, Bakhtiar Praise Break With Iran

LD281400 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1235 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Apr (SPA)—Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the former Iranian president, has described the Kingdom's decision to sever its relations with Iran as a logical move, especially since Khomeyni and his ruling clique persist in interfering in other people's affairs and want to turn the next pilgrimage into another Khomeyniist massacre.

Bani-Sadr said, in an interview published today by AL-MADINAH, that the Kingdom is eager to prevent a repetition of last year's incidents and that its decision to sever its relations with Iran confirms this stand aimed at not allowing the pilgrimage to be turned into a battlefield as Khomeyni and his regime want to do.

In the same context, Shapur Bakhtiar, the former Iranian prime minister and one of the main leaders of the Iranian opposition in exile, has declared that the Kingdom's decision to sever its relations with Iran was expected and that it is an indication that matters and events have been developing for years. He added that the Khomeyni regime does not respect any international law or norm, nor does it respect the neighboring states.

Bakhtiar said, in an interview with the same paper, that there was no other alternative but to sever relations in order to make Khomeyni realize that the actions he is taking are rejected by everyone. This is because Khomeyni, by seeming to talk about the holy places, is aiming to sow sedition and cause disturbances in the Kingdom, exploiting the pilgrimage as a propaganda forum for himself.

Bakhtiar described the severing of relations with the Khomeyni regime as being in line with the logic of the development of events in this region. He said:

"I expected this to happen, because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia never interfered in Khomeyni's internal affairs; whereas, we see Khomeyni interfering in other people's affairs."

Bakhtiar also expressed the hope that the Arab states will become aware of Khomeyni's true face and his evil ideas and intentions toward this region.

Ramadan Interviewed on War, Foreign Relations
JN282040 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Apr 88 p 9

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, RCC member, and Popular Army commander, by Jalal 'Isa in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Iraq's first deputy prime minister says Islamic scholars have an onerous, uphill task, which they will answer for before God; namely, exposing the role and thinking of the Iranian regime and its misrepresentation of Islam.

He called on Muslim scholars to defend the fundamentals of Islam and shield religion from the plots seeking to demolish it, and from plots seeking to undermine and to pervert the faith.

He added that Islam is a religion of logic and sense, and that had it been otherwise the Arabs would not have accepted it, being the tough nation they are. When the Arabs embraced Islam through conviction, they conquered the world and spread the religion.

He said 90 percent of the Iranians have nothing to do with Islam or any other religion. They have their particular religion, which is removed from all other religions:

They beat their children, inflict wounds on themselves during 'Ashura', and kill each other and themselves. This is torture and suicide. It has nothing to do with religion, but is indeed antireligious.

Furthermore, they do not fast with the Muslims, their call to prayer is made before or after the Muslims, and they do not hold group prayers [salat al- Jama'a]. They pray singly, as the community notion has fallen by the wayside.

The Persians lie at the root of all troubles: The Baha'is are Persians, the Babiyinism [name as published] is Persian, and so is the Hafiz al-Asad group, which descends from Iran.

The Isma'iliyiah movement comes from Persia, the Batiniyah movement also hails from Persia, as do all the movements of tarnishing Islam. The Iraqi leader said they claim that Fatimah had inspiration after the Messenger, with Caliph 'Ali in attendance.

He said some Iranians put up statues of Caliphs Abu Bakr and 'Umar and pelt them with stones and filth, and charge that both had usurped the caliphate from 'Ali. Therefore, the Iranians must be exposed and their lies refuted.

After discussing Khomeyni and his followers, we moved to the Iraq-Iran war and its circumstances.

Replying to a question about Iran's nonabidance by Security Council Resolution No 598 and lack of responsiveness to all peace calls from around the world as well as its noncompliance with calls to end the war, Taha Yasin Ramadan said:

It is worthwhile to put everybody in the picture of the guiding strategy for the ruling group in Iran. Since its arrival on the scene, it has sought to expand and build an empire under its leadership in order to embrace all the Arab and Muslim countries, not just Iraq.

Our disagreement with them is not over borders. Although we have been open to all peace and mediation efforts, we know that Iran will spurn them. Khomeyni's rule is built on war and the export of the revolution across the border.

As far as we in Iraq are concerned, we consider each of us legitimate within our own borders. Khomeyni, on the other hand, considers this to be a failure.

['Isa] Does Iraq have any objectives in Iran?

[Ramadan] We do not have any objectives in Iran, but Khomeyni does have objectives in Iraq. Our commitment to peace is one of principles. We are interested in our border and country, and the governmental system in Iran is of no concern to us.

['Isa] Why did Iran not reject the Security Council resolution right from the beginning?

[Ramadan] The Security Council resolution had something binding in it; it was different from the other resolutions. Iran did not actually reject this resolution at first, so that it would not be isolated.

It then began to prevaricate. Practically, they are rejecting it and we do not expect them to accept the resolution. They will never agree to stop fighting as long as they are capable of fighting.

We know that the Security Council resolution will not really prevent the flow of all weapons to Iran, although we realize that the states which respect themselves will not sell arms to Iran.

What is now required is to boycott Iran economically and to refrain from buying its oil. Iraq's policy is now aimed at destroying all the Iranian oil installations, so that Tehran will not find the money with which it can purchase arms. He stressed that Iran's continuation of the war will expedite its collapse.

['Isa] What is new in the stand of the two superpowers?

[Ramadan] Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union dealt seriously with the Security Council resolution. Each of them is dealing with it as an international card to be used insofar as it draws benefit from Iran.

The United States wants to win Iran, and the Soviet Union does not want Iran, which has common borders with it and Islamic states, to turn into a hostile state in favor of the United States.

['Isa] What about the Soviet-Iraqi dialogue?

[Ramadan] The man said that the Soviet Union is maneuvering, and they say they are ready for dialogue. However, there is no seriousness, despite the demonstration of a desire for dialogue with Iraq.

['Isa] Is there any positive step to implement the cease-fire resolution?

[Ramadan] Regrettably, I cannot say that such a step exists now.

['Isa] What is new in the war of the cities?

[Ramadan] The balance is now strongly tipped in favor of Iraq as a result of using the "Al-Husayn" missiles. These missiles have at least widened the circle in Iran that is in the war and have extended it to deep inside Iran, as some areas were far from the war before our missiles were used.

We had aircraft which penetrated deep into Iran, but that was costly. The introduction of the missiles brought 80 percent of the Iranian people into the war.

From the political and social viewpoint, the missiles created a new dimension for opposition and rejection in Iran and for the anti-Khomeyni peace-loving currents which condemn the war.

['Isa] Have you sensed this well, and are the missiles undermining the energies which Khomeyni unleashed and for which he mobilized the Iranian people?

[Ramadan] Yes, after striking at the Iranian cities, Iran moved on many fronts to stop the war. It requested this from Libya, the UN secretary general, and Turkey.

It has also started to discuss the issue of stopping the war—an issue which was completely rejected. He added: Many Iranian intellectuals, wise men, and merchants reject the war.

No matter how much Khomeyni persists in his follies, a large strata of Iranians will reject his practices. Things will be negatively reflected on the Khomeyniite regime, in addition to the Iranian forces' morale, especially after we have finished developing the "Al-Husayn" missile, as announced by President Saddam Husayn in the middle of March when development of the missile began.

The test succeeded this week. In 2 months we will be able to shell all of Iran with missiles, even its cities and villages that are close to the Soviet Union, because increasing the range from 650 km to 850 km amounts to 50 percent of Iran.

['Isa] What will be the situation if the 8-year-old war continues?

[Ramadan] If the war continues, Iraq will develop its forces and weapons. Wise men in the world and in Iran should think of a solution. After 8 years of war, Iraq has not weakened.

Iraq's intrinsic powers and weapons have emerged, creating a new situation for everyone. The picture will absolutely change. The side that produced missiles can produce other weapons. Therefore, advocates of peace will think in a new way.

['Isa] How do you face Iran's numerical superiority?

[Ramadan] We now concentrate on continuing to prepare the Iraqi Armed Forces, promote military technology, and develop our weapons. This is the practical response to the Iranians numerical superiority. New weapons will appear soon. Some weapons will be developed to increase their effectiveness in the battlefield. This is the outcome of 8 years of fighting.

['Isa] Is there a reassuring protection for the plants producing and developing missiles, after Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor?

[Ramadan] Praise be to God, everything is secured and the situation is different from that at the reactor. We have no problems protecting our military industries. The measures are reassuring.

['Isa] What is your opinion of the Syrian and Libyan stands on the Iraq-Iran war?

[Ramadan] The situation is painful. Most Arab citizens know this. The Syrian Government's stand is treasonous; the Syrian people's stand is not. Regrettably, those who adopt a treacherous stand on the issue of the Arabs' war with the Persians cannot adopt a pan-Arab stand on the Palestine question and even on the issue of the Syrian people themselves.

Al-Asad's rule cannot change itself because it stems from an unobjective basis. Al-Asad's objective is the fragmentation of the Arab nation. Al-Asad, like Khomeyni, has linked his fate with the continuation of this war.

He wants Iran to triumph. He has completely unveiled his face. He who believes that Al-Asad will change his stand is deluding himself.

We only want from Syria a natural pan-Arab stand, which has been adopted by all Arab countries except Libya. Their stands are contradictory. When they say that they support the resolutions of the Amman summit, they are lying. King Husayn told them that the Persians and the Zionists are two sides of the same coin. Their saying that Iran will liberate Jerusalem is strange.

He said: Al-Asad allowed Iranian planes to fuel and fly to strike at Iraq. He wants Palestine and the state of Palestine, and at the same time he besieges Tal al-Za'ttar for 57 days and kills Palestinian children, women, and old men.

Al-Qadhdhafi's role is also exposed, like Al-Asad's. The Amman summit was an opportunity for the traitors to repent. However, they refused to repent and did not exploit the opportunity.

We do not want Al-Qadhdhafi to declare war against Iran. It is sufficient to say that Iran has ambitions on Arab territory. Although we know what Al-Qadhdhafi offers to Iran, we forgive.

This is how the Arabs deal. But if we forgive a traitor, history and the people will not forgive him. If we also say: Let us start a new page, history cannot forgive.

['Isa] During a recent meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunisia, I heard him say that Iraq supports the Palestinian uprising and indeed is foremost among the Arab states that support it. How can such support be given at a time when Iraq is passing through the difficult circumstances created by the war?

[Ramadan] From our pan-Arab perspective, what is happening in the occupied territory in Palestine is a popular uprising. It is a people's revolution, not a temporary upheaval.

That strengthens within us the feeling that our nation is still in good shape and that it is on the beginning of the road toward a better future. This is because those who have been born under colonialism are resisting colonialism.

This confirms that the conscience of our Arab people is alive, and is not as some suspect rulers seek to depict it, and is remote from the bleak picture represented by some traitorous Arab rulers.

The aim of the Zionist-Persian alliance is to fragment the Arab nation. Israel's support for Iran and its supply of arms to Iran make us in Iraq feel that the Palestinian arena and the uprising are part of the battle with Iran and should be supported in the same way that the Iraqi Armed Forces on the front are supported.

['Isa] Thus, the Iraqi leader has denied the accusation of Khomeyniism with which Israel tried to label the uprising. Wars are always a disaster. However, despite its enormity have there been positive aspects in the war which have benefitted Iraq or from which we can expect to benefit once the war is over?

[Ramadan] Yes, there are positive aspects. We have benefitted a great deal from the war. We thank God that it has entrenched national unity. We are fully satisfied with the level of unity we have attained as a result of the war. It is a unity that has been strengthened by blood.

It has disappointed the enemies who were exploiting the differences between the Iraqis and the Kurds and the differences among some sects. The war has sorted out the patriot from the traitor, and that is the most important aspect.

There are other benefits, such as acquiring an economic perspective. Iraq was not economically minded at all, but the war has directed it toward an economic perspective.

It has developed the Iraqi citizen's self-confidence and made him realize he can do anything. It shattered the mistaken view that the Arab cannot do anything without the foreigner.

We as Arabs emerged as "the best nation brought forth to men" [Koranic phrase], and that is not just for the sake of reading. The sense of citizenship strengthened to such an extent that people were prepared to sacrifice their lives.

Now the family that has offered martyrs is the most patriotic of families, and the father, the son, and the brother are more zealous. We thank God that no one was struck with sorrow which causes lack of achievement.

The shedding of blood has immunized the Iraqi people. The war is a school and an experience that must be exploited in administration, production, and bringing up the new generation.

['Isa] We then discussed the Iraqi wartime economy. Ramadan asserted that Iraq's economy is growing and flourishing. In 2 years there will be a leap forward in Iraq as a result of the economic and administrative revolution that began with the elimination of veiled unemployment and administrative delays.

We shall implement projects that have a great economic yield. The quantities of exported oil will rise to 1 million barrels per day. We shall stop imports, and in 3 months we will not import at all.

After 6 months, we shall look for outlets for export, such as fertilizers and other products. Investment projects will be implemented and will have a crucial effect on the economy.

['Isa] How can a balance between work and war be established when most of the producing youth are at the battlefront?

[Ramadan] Our projects are now operating at full capacity. Compensation is provided in various forms such as overtime and the use of new equipment which increases production.

We have overcome many of the difficulties arising from a shortage in manpower as a result of the war. The Iraqi citizen at times of war works better, thanks to his sense of patriotism. In the absence of their colleagues at the front, everyone is working.

['Isa] I then talked to the Iraqi first deputy prime minister about some of the troubles faced by Egyptian workers in Iraq. We talked about the current opportunities for work in Iraq.

[Ramadan] The Egyptian worker is linked to our national security. Our need for him is great. The door is open to all Arab workers, particularly Egyptians. The principled stand still holds.

We must distinguish between a pan-Arab stand and a regime. The regime in any country is always subject to constant development. There is no country in the world that does not change its laws according to the requirements of life.

['Isa] There are difficulties that face those who come to work in Iraq. Among such difficulties are obtaining an identity card, transfer procedures, and treatment at the airport.

[Ramadan] The situation with regard to visas and identity cards has not changed. Two years ago we discussed the need for non-Iraqi manpower, and we declared that such a need will decrease and it is necessary to draw up regulations for that purpose.

We do not close the door to Egyptians. We let Egyptians look for work, and if they cannot find it they leave. There are no work opportunities in the government and the public sector now. Work opportunities are very, very limited.

Work opportunities exist only in the private sector. We also fixed 50 as the maximum age for workers allowed to enter the country. With regard to those who are currently residing in the country, they are not allowed to transfer cash if they are older than 55.

There are no big problems with regard to the transfer of cash. A fixed percentage has been allocated to all the workers. Those who work in the government are not the same as those who work in the private or public sector. The system applies to all, and there are no regulations against the Egyptians. The system is there because of our circumstances.

['Isa] Workers arriving in the country are asked to produce a health certificate stating that they are free of AIDS. Obtaining such a certificate is very difficult. Workers are not allowed to transfer part of their income unless they have such a certificate. Why?

[Ramadan] The AIDS certificate and the age restriction have been introduced recently. A 70-year-old arrival cannot work. We and you are combatting begging. A certificate stating that the person arriving is free of disease is a necessary organizational matter.

Perhaps the Iraqi suffers from the delay in the medical tests equally as the Egyptian. We combat such administrative shortcomings. The AIDS-free certificate is not at all directed against Egyptians.

With regard to the mistreatment you mentioned at the airport, the necessary instructions for proper treatment will be issued at once. Respect for the Egyptian labor force is a basic matter. Egyptian workers have a great and undeniable role in various Iraqi services.

['Isa] With regard to Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation and the Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said:

[Ramadan] The principle has been agreed upon. [Egyptian Prime Minister] 'Atif Sidqi is slated to arrive soon. We have drawn up plans and studied protocols, joint companies, and other matters.

They are being discussed very seriously. Agreements on these matters will be discussed when 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him visit Baghdad. The formation of the Egyptian-Iraqi committee will be announced during the visit, which is scheduled to take place in early May.

['Isa] The Iraqi first deputy prime minister welcomed the Egyptian prime minister's visit, and welcomed every Egyptian in Iraq.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique 3,160

JN281826 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,160 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 April]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, 13 enemy scoundrels were killed and 2 infantry positions were destroyed.

In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akhbar Forces—one enemy scoundrel was killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

2. In the II Army Corps Central sector, one machinegun emplacement, one infantry position, and one observation post were destroyed.

In the II Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one enemy drone was downed and an observation post was destroyed.

3. A brave unit from our forces in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan raided enemy positions and clashed with the scoundrels with all weapons, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment on them. The force then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one machinegun emplacement and a medium machinegun were destroyed. In the VII Army Corps sector, two ammunition dumps were blown up and one observation post was destroyed.

5. Since Iraq announced that it has stopped bombarding the Iranian cities, in accordance with the bases announced in the official spokesman's statement, the regime of charlatans has neither learned from the experiment nor benefited from the opportunity which Iraq gave it from the position of overwhelming superiority.

The regime of charlatans continued to bombard residential areas in our cities and villages in a premeditated and planned attempt to reignite the cities' war and to undermine one of the bases in accordance with which Iraq stopped its bombardment of Iranian cities.

This basis provides that the Iranian regime stop its bombardment of our cities at the same time that we stop the bombardment of Iranian cities.

The Iranian regime committed the following acts, expressing its evil intentions:

a. On 21 April 1988, the criminal Iranian regime bombed residential areas in the city of Al-Qurnah with tubular launchers.

b. On 23 April 1988, the Iranian regime shelled residential areas in Darband-i Khan with 155-mm heavy artillery.

c. On the same day, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the center of Al-Sulaymaniyah city with 155-mm heavy artillery.

d. On 24 April 1988, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in Qal'at Dizah and Karb Dagh village with 155-mm heavy artillery.

e. On the same day, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in Darband-i Khan with 155-mm heavy artillery.

f. On 26 April 1988, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the city of Basra with 130-mm heavy artillery.

g. On the same day, the Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the center of Al-Sulaymaniyah city with 155-mm heavy artillery.

h. On the same day, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the village of Darband-i Khan with 155-mm heavy artillery.

i. Last night, on 27 April 1988, the criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the brave Al-Basra Governorate. As a result, civilians were wounded and civilian property and houses were damaged.

j. Today, 28 April 1988, the criminal enemy shelled residential areas in Darband-i Khan with 155-mm heavy artillery.

We affirm to Iran's rulers that the continuation of these condemned, criminal acts gives Iraq full legitimacy and right to implement a comprehensive devastating deterrence in defense of its people's lives, security, and property.

The coming blows will be more effective than the painful blows they received if they continue their criminal acts against our civilians and cities, or if they violate any of the bases in accordance with which we stopped bombing the Iranian cities.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 April 1988.

2 'Maritime Targets' Hit

JN290809 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0735 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Air Force is continuing its activities by destroying the oil supplies of the Khomeyniite aggressors who use the revenues of such supplies to prolong the war. Our aircraft have carried out the following two missions off the Iranian coast:

A. With the help of God, an accurate and effective blow was dealt to a very large maritime target last night.

B. At the same time, our aircraft dealt another accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target.

After carrying out their two missions, our aircraft returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

[Dated] 29 April 1988.

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN290817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi plane yesterday evening. The military spokesman told INA this morning that we have grown accustomed to hearing the Iranian news media utter such lies every now and then.

Envoy to Athens Comments on Detained Israeli

TA2904121088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Interview with Moshe Gilbo'a, ambassador to Greece, by correspondent Jean Kohen in Athens on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] We asked Moshe Gilbo'a, Israel's ambassador in Athens, for his reaction to the affair of the Israeli detained in connection with the plan to assassinate a PLO representative in Athens:

[Gilbo'a] Yesterday the El Al people reported to us that an Israeli citizen was detained on his way to the plane. At the same time we also heard this from Radio Athens.

Since the Athenian authorities had not informed us, we immediately inquired about what happened to the Israeli citizen. We asked about his condition and the circumstances of his detention.

This morning our representative was allowed to meet the detainee, in fact the meeting is being held at this very minute.

We contacted all the relevant bodies, the Foreign Ministry and the police, and they confirmed that he is indeed under detention. This morning they permitted us, as is usual in such cases, to visit the detainee.

Meanwhile this issue is leading the television newscasts and press headlines. This issue has many ramifications. We are trying to find out what happened to the Israeli and why he has been detained.

IDF Denies Siege on S. Lebanese Village

TA2804173888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Lebanese radio stations report that IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops are besieging Kafr Shuba, a Sunni village at the foot of Mount Hermon. According to these reports, local dignitaries refuse to hand over a few inhabitants who helped terrorist squads reach the Israeli border this week.

The IDF spokesman stresses that Kafr Shuba is not under siege. [passage omitted]

'Fatahland' Operation Coordinated With UNIFIL

TA2904113788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] A small IDF force conducted searches in two villages in Fatahland on the slopes of Mount Hermon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by UNIFIL headquarters that the IDF's operation in the villages of Rashayyah al-Fukhkhar and Kafr Hamam was coordinated with the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent deployed in the area and conducted under the observation of UNIFIL officers.

The IDF soldiers interrogated several dozen residents about the two terrorist squads that passed through the area this week on their way to the Israeli border.

SLA, 'Terrorists' Exchange Fire in S. Lebanon

TA2904073188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Terrorists fired at a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post on the border of the security strip early this morning, but no one was hurt. The terrorists fired automatic weapons and RPG shells.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by UNIFIL headquarters that the SLA posts returned artillery fire at the terrorists' positions on the outskirts of the village of Haddathah, north of the security strip.

Rabin on Policy Against Terrorism in Lebanon

TA2804181188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel's current policy in the north is also meant to conform with changeable situations in Lebanon. Our answer to terrorism in Lebanon does not guarantee that Katyusha rockets will never again fall on Israel, but it permits the border settlements to go on living a normal life under reasonable security conditions.

To wit, no Israeli civilian has been killed. At the same time, the minister emphasized, the war against terrorism has taken its toll. So far, 34 IDF soldiers have been killed, 2 have been taken prisoner by Hizballah, and 1 navigator is being held by Amal.

Minister Rabin added that cooperation between Hizballah and 'Arafat in Lebanon is now a fait accompli. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister was speaking at a seminar in memory of the late Lieutenant General David El'azar held at Tel Aviv University.

Syrian Role in Northern Infiltrations Examined

TA2804180988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in south Lebanon, by Dan Shilon—live; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] We would like to discuss the latest tension on the northern border in the context of the situation in Lebanon. I would like to first ask you if Syria is connected with it?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that the latest attempts to infiltrate the border come from a region where Syria is considered to generally have a say in what happens.

Therefore, there is no doubt that in some ways these infiltration attempts have more of a Syrian character than activities in other areas in the security zone.

[Shilon] When Syria does not want activities to take place it usually knows how to prevent them.

[Lubrani] I do not know if it has total control, but it certainly has something to say about it. If Syria was very much opposed to such actions there is no doubt it would be very difficult for terrorist squads to reach as far as they did.

[Shilon] There is the impression that in the central and western sectors relatively less activity takes place. Could this be explained by what is happening in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] I would not say relatively less, but I would definitely say that if we are referring to infiltration attempts beyond the security zone then it is certainly less.

But this does not mean that there are no attempts to infiltrate the security zone and operate in these areas. These are two different things. There are squads which have reached beyond the Green Line, which is called the Purple Line here. The squads do not manage to reach across the international border.

[Shilon] There is talk about Shi'ite Amal control, at the expense of the Hizballah, which is somewhat restricting the terrorists' ability to operate freely.

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that in the western sector it is harder for the terrorists coming from Palestinian areas to operate. Among the local population there are groups and frameworks which are not interested in the terrorists operating because they fear reprisals.

[Shilon] Can you give us names? Which group in Lebanon is currently the PLO's best friend?

[Lubrani] The best friend of the Palestinian organizations is money. They are partially successful in buying their way towards the security zone. But this is not all.

They also have friends in the Hizballah, and in Lebanese organizations linked to Syria. Therefore, I do not believe there is just one organization which can be blamed. There is a mix of such organizations. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Shultz Plan, PLO-Syria Rapprochement

TA271751 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Interview with Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen, in Beilin's office on 27 April—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr Director General, do you believe that in light of the Syrian-PLO rapprochement, the Shultz initiative still stands a chance?

[Beilin] With or without the latest 'Arafat-Al-Asad meeting, I believe the Shultz initiative does have a chance, mainly because of the U.S. determination to pursue the political process as we have seen over the past few months.

This is also evident from public U.S. announcements even after the meeting between Shevardnadze and Shultz. The Americans clearly stated that they are pursuing this process.

Wat Cluverius is currently visiting the region, stopping in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. I firmly believe the Americans are determined to go ahead with this, and if that is the case, I think this initiative stands a good chance.

[Kohen] What effect do you think this Syrian-PLO rapprochement will have on Egypt, which has always regarded the PLO as an active partner to negotiations?

[Beilin] Egypt undoubtedly holds a key position in the promotion of the peace process. It has been Egypt's interest for over a decade to not be the only country in the region to have peaceful relations with Israel.

Consequently, both President al-Sadat in his time, and President Mubarak over the past few years, invested great efforts in promoting all political initiatives.

I think this PLO-Syria rapprochement cannot work in Egypt's favor. In fact, I believe it annoys Egypt. It proves that perhaps a front which does not advocate peace, consisting of Syria, Libya, and the PLO, is emerging.

We will therefore have to look for the Palestinian component outside the PLO. Some have held this view all the time. Others may have discovered this only now. But it seems to me that this is the reality.

[Kohen] You talked about new directions in view of this rapprochement. Can the moderate Arab countries, such as Egypt and Jordan, backed by the United States, conceive of new directions?

[Beilin] It is my belief that the general trend is the one indicated in the Shultz initiative, namely that there should be a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will

include Palestinians who regard UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for negotiations and who renounce terrorism and violence.

This, I believe, is the best formula for the inclusion of Palestinians in such negotiations. No solution can be found without the Palestinians, however, because the Palestinian problem lies at the core of the conflict.

[Kohen] Do you believe that King Husayn can set up such a delegation under the present circumstances?

[Beilin] There is no doubt in my mind that this is a harder feat now than it would have been prior to the uprising. Nonetheless, it seems to me that it is in the interest of all of us, all those who want peace—Egypt, Jordan, and Israel as well as the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—to arrive at some point at which negotiations can be launched. I believe that with a little goodwill, it will be possible to set up such a delegation.

Baraq on Reliance on Intelligence, Syrian Front

TA2904132988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 April 88 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] "The Yom Kippur War lesson has been well learned. Never again will we be taken by surprise as we were then. But it must be clear that there is no way to guarantee a full and absolute intelligence warning."

These remarks were made yesterday by Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff and head of intelligence, who addressed a symposium in memory of Lieutenant General David El'azar.

Baraq noted that there are about three or four divisions on the Syrian front, capable of moving on short notice, but that Israel's power of deterrence is better than it was in the past.

Baraq addressed himself to the problem of strategic surprise, analyzing the element of surprise felt in Israel at the time of the Yom Kippur War.

"From the military point of view, the war was a tremendous victory, despite inferior opening conditions. We achieved peace with the strongest Arab nation within a few years, and there is no doubt that the Yom Kippur War had an important role in the peace with Egypt."

He further said: "I will leave it to the historians to determine whether the Yom Kippur War was necessary. In the conditions prevailing in the Middle East, however, and having some knowledge of the local leaders, I believe it would have been difficult to achieve peace with Egypt without that war's test."

Baraq expressed his opinion regarding the Agranat Commission [commission of inquiry set up to probe the 1973 war] conclusions, which stated that experience showed it was impossible to provide unequivocal and unvarying answers to problems raised in the wake of the Yom Kippur War.

To prove his point, he used the Syrian front as an example. Syria maintains some 2,000 tanks, 1,000 artillery pieces, and 3 to 4 regular army divisions, all capable of action on short notice.

This array would compel Israel to maintain constant and permanent forces and equipment in the area in order to ensure suitable deterrence. This would totally disrupt our life, said Baraq.

He explained that instead we provide a full technical and security answer, while taking a reasonable calculated risk. The IDF has returned to the system of relying on intelligence warning as the main component of our basic security concept, backed up by the air force, infantry, and other components of the armed forces.

Baraq stressed repeatedly that the IDF's power of deterrence is much better now than it was in the past with regard to intelligence materiel flow, collection, and analysis by decision makers.

He stressed, however, that an advanced intelligence warning provides no perfect solution to the problem of strategic deterrence.

He added that in the present situation we must learn how to live with a reasonable degree of security, while taking a calculated risk. This must be coupled with utmost sensitivity in order to perceive the exact moment of change in the present status of relative calm. Gen Baraq made it clear that intelligence is very high on the IDF's list of priorities, including the allocation of resources. Despite this we have had many errors of judgment, not all necessary, as well as considerable successes.

Gen Baraq emphasized: "I do not believe we should think disparagingly of the ability of either the individual Arab soldier, or of the Arab elite. I also believe they have some serious elites there."

Deqel Views Syrian, Saudi Missile Capabilities

TA2804145288 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Apr 88 p 5

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Addressing Herut activists in Tel Aviv, Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel disclosed that German experts had succeeded in reducing the size of the warheads of the "Scud" missiles used by the Iraqi Army, enabling their range to be increased.

"At present the upgraded 'Scud' missiles successfully reach Tehran from Baghdad, and they could easily reach Tel Aviv in the future," said Deqel. He added, "Israel has lethal answers in the field of antimissile warfare at its disposal to counter the enemy."

According to the deputy defense minister, the Syrians have "Scud" missiles which can effectively reach Beersheba, while the Saudis have Chinese missiles with a range of 2,400 km.

Deqel, who recently returned from a visit to West Germany, was appointed a few months ago by Defense Minister Rabin to prepare the civilian rearguard for war. In this capacity, Knesset Member Deqel coordinates between the IDF and the defense establishment and civilian elements involved in this field.

'Terrorist' Bomb Attack Attempts Increasing

TA271413 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
27 Apr 88 p A7

[Report by Barukh Na'e

[Excerpt] The terrorist organizations this year attempted 142 bombing attacks within Israel. Some 30 percent of the bombs exploded before being discovered. The other 70 percent were defused by the police bomb disposal experts.

The number of explosives planted this year is much larger than last year. The police believe the situation will continue to worsen. The police also expect the level of sophistication in attempted terrorist attacks inside Israel to increase. These findings were disclosed yesterday by Assistant Commander Shlomo Aharonshki, the chief of the police bomb disposal squad on "Bomb Disposal Day." [passage omitted]

Editorial Doubts Intelligence Service 'Quality'

TA2804143188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
28 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "An Offensive on the Border Fence"]

[Text] A deputy battalion commander of the Giv'ati Brigade commanded yesterday's skirmish with terrorists at Mount Hermon. This is the same battalion which was led into battle with another terrorist squad 2 days ago by the late Lieutenant Colonel Shmu'el Adiv.

The deputy battalion commander was on his way to his commander's funeral uniformed in army parade dress. The warning was short. A day after battle the battalion was ready for renewed pursuit.

This is the northern border today, April 1988. The IDF defense system, after 3 years of deployment along the northern border, forms a good defense line. The army here is a different entity from the one we have heard about in the territories. It is alert, professional, a force which is aware of its tasks and responsibilities.

But this is not the solution to the wave of terror along the northern border. A new situation is evolving along the Lebanese border. No more Hizballah attacks on South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions. No more roadside explosive charges, mines, or fire at SLA and IDF positions.

No more scattered infiltration attempts. It is the beginning of the Palestinian organizations' offensive on the border fence.

Hence, the security zone served its purpose until the beginning of April.

The present terror wave, the Palestinian organizations' new strategy, must be nipped in the bud before it has a chance to peak. When IDF troops were stationed in Lebanon, a Shi'ite popular uprising in south Lebanon was detected only when it reached its peak.

We paid a heavy price for that. The civilian uprising in the territories was taken notice of by the security forces only after it continued for several weeks, the results being well known to all.

There is no obvious reason not to confront the developing problem on the northern border at once, now, before one of the squads finally makes it to a civilian settlement.

The military solution must be part of a concentrated offensive effort. The question is whether the IDF is capable of passing from a defensive line to an offensive one.

The primary condition for the required offensive is accurate intelligence. The recent terrorist squads' success in reaching the border fence raises some melancholy reflections as to the quality of our intelligence service.

If the squads' existence was unknown prior to the skirmish, something must be rotten in the intelligence system. This is one subject to which the defense minister should pay close attention.

Italian Radar Tracked Suspect Flight to Tunis

PM261518 Rome AVANTI in Italian
23 Apr 88 p 13

[Unattributed report: "Italian Radar Tracked Israeli Flight to Tunis"]

[Text] Rome—Italian military sources have denied that the Israeli aircraft that took part—with jamming measures—in the Tunis raid to kill Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] violated Italian airspace, as some newspapers have suggested.

The same sources did not deny, however, that it may indeed have flown in international air space in an air corridor under Italian air traffic control.

The Italian Independent Flight Assistance Company (ANAV) confirmed that on Friday night the Rome control center "did indeed provide flight assistance to an aircraft that identified itself as an Israeli civilian plane."

The aircraft, ANAV added, flew air corridor "Blue 21," which passes over Malta and the Strait of Sicily toward Sardinia. "The Israeli aircraft flew that route in accordance with a normal flight plan," according to ANAV.

The aircraft's identification code, Italian air controllers added, began with a "4X," which in Israel is assigned not only to all civilian aircraft but also to a number of military transport planes including the 11 Boeing 707's used by the government and in service with the Israeli Air Force.

According to the daily HA'ARETZ, the Israeli aircraft that supplied the electronic support for the Abu Jihad mission was indeed a Boeing 707. Finally, ANAV said that "at the moment" it is not in a position to specify the aircraft's full identification code (whose accuracy cannot in any case be verified because it was supplied by the crew itself), the exact time of its flight along the air corridor in a northwesterly direction (toward Sardinia), or even whether it later turned back along the same route.

Grapefruit Exported to Italy Feared Poisoned

TA271335 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
27 Apr 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Mordekhay Elkan, Rafi Luzon, Sha'ul Ben-Hayim, Sari Robert, Aharon Pri'el, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] An expert from the Israeli Agriculture Ministry was sent to Italy yesterday to check whether Israeli grapefruit were poisoned. Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin told MA'ARIV this last night.

The minister said he asked the commerce attache in the Israeli Embassy in Rome to investigate the affair. He pointed out that no damage has so far been caused to Israel by the delay in grapefruit sales since it is the end of the season and they can be sold next week if they are found to not be poisoned.

The Italian Government banned the sale of grapefruit and ordered the confiscation of all Israeli grapefruit in Italy. The order followed the discovery that grapefruit from Israel were suspected of having been injected with a powerful poison as part of a campaign against Israeli imports.

The Israeli Embassy in Rome said yesterday that it was closely following developments in the grapefruit affair together with the Italian authorities. Avi Granot, the embassy spokesman, said: "I hope that it is a criminal act by a madman and not an organized operation on a terrorist level."

Officials said that according to tests carried out on grapefruit taken from a supermarket in a Rome suburb, six out of 12 grapefruit were found to have been injected with a blue-turquoise poison. The poison was so fatal it instantly killed rats injected with it. [passage omitted]

Possible Compromises on Tabah Issue Reported

TA271420 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
27 Apr 88 p A 1

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Israel is agreeable to a territorial compromise on Tabah according to which the hotel and the Nelson beach will remain in Israeli hands. Another proposal which Israel will accept as a compromise is a functional solution.

Nobody will have actual sovereignty. The Egyptian flag will be flown in Tabah and the territory will be jointly held by both sides. Under this arrangement Israel will have free access and the hotel and the Nelson beach will remain under Israeli ownership. This is according to sources at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Abraham Sofaer, the legal adviser to the U.S. Justice Ministry, met yesterday with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office; Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry; and Robi Sabel, the legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry. He discussed with them the possibility of compromise between Israel and Egypt on Tabah.

Sofaer left for Cairo last night and will return to Jerusalem on Friday to report on the results of his meetings with the Egyptians.

Shamir Announces Desire To Lead Likud

TA271808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today announced publicly for the first time that he wants to go on leading the Likud, if the party wants him. He told Herut veterans that he was critical of those who did not ignore personal and factional interests.

His remarks were interpreted as earmarked for Deputy Premier David Levi. The prime minister also told Levi that despite his young age he was an experienced and veteran politician and acting head of the movement. His status in the government also reflected his status in the movement.

Wave of 'Political Activity' at Ansar-3 Reported

TA2904110088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] The death of PLO commander Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has sparked a wave of internal political activity at the controversial "Ansar 3" detention camp here, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

According to sources in the facility, scores of inmates have attempted to stage mock funerals for the slain PLO figure. The funerals were dispersed quickly by troops and military policemen.

Yesterday, for the first time since the camp was opened earlier this year, IDF officials permitted reporters to enter.

According to prisoners, during the evening hours, in nearly every tent, leaders among the inmates deliver eulogies to Abu Jihad, and recite the names of Palestinian casualties in the territories.

The information reportedly comes from relatives of inmates visiting the camp, and Arabic-language newspapers distributed there.

The three separate wings of the camp currently house a total of 2,300 inmates, including over 900 administrative detainees.

Strict segregation is maintained between West Bank residents and Gazans, as well as between administrative detainees and other prisoners. All prisoners under the age of 16 have been transferred from the facility, following reports of attempted acts of sexual abuse by adult inmates on a 12-year-old detainee.

Aluf Mishne [Colonel] David Tzemah, commander of the facility, said yesterday that the administrative detainees, while demanding their rights and privileges, do not pose disciplinary problems.

But detainees awaiting the conclusion of legal proceedings against them "are of undetermined status, and thus tend to be more tense and more excitable, and so we have to make efforts to calm them."

Tzemah stressed that beating is forbidden, a claim substantiated by prisoners questioned without IDF personnel present. There have been no cases of prisoners attempting to attack guards, Tzemah added.

Prisoners also said that press reports of food poisoning, and of the use of tear gas and live ammunition to keep order in the camp were untrue, but complained of overcrowding and the stifling heat and dust of the desert as "difficult to bear."

IDF officials disclosed that NIS [new Israeli shekels] 4m. have been invested in the camp, and the Defence Ministry had authorized an additional NIS 45m. for further development of the facility.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Update on 27 Apr Disturbances

TA2804150788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Palestinian sources said a rioter was wounded in the leg by gunfire at Kafr Salim near Nabulus in a clash with army patrols that entered the village.

At Moshav Hamra, on the ridge overlooking the Jordan Valley, vandals destroyed thousands of melon plants, destroyed irrigation pipes and emptied fertilizer tanks. Tracks led to an adjacent Arab village, and moshav members said they suspected some of their Arab workers were involved. They said their losses totalled NIS [new Israeli shekels] 350,000.

The area commander cautioned the settlers against responding in kind and warned Arabs that if they wanted to continue cultivating their land they should block attempts by youths to vandalize property at Jewish settlements.

At the village of Qatannah near Ma'ale Hahamisha, bulldozers uprooted hundreds of olive trees in a two-day operation supervised by the Israel Lands Administration. The village was put under curfew and trees adjacent to homes were also uprooted.

It was the third time trees have been uprooted near Arab villages in what used to be no-man's-land along the Green Line. The move is an apparent attempt to assert control over the areas, which have been declared state land.

A similar operation was carried out two years ago at Qatannah, and last year at the village of Al-Midyah, near Modi'in. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 28 April on page A4 reports further on the situation in the territories adding that "In Jericho, which is usually quiet, unknown people set the customs and excise offices of the Civilian Administration on fire. The security forces detained suspects. Local elements claimed that this act was carried out by instigators from East Jerusalem who want to entangle the Jericho residents in the trouble.

"All East Jerusalem businessmen declared a 3-day general strike as a token of solidarity with their colleagues at the Damascus Gate. These colleagues disobeyed orders issued by the commander of the Central Command to open their shops all day long, rather than according to the instructions of PLO elements."]

Woman Wounded in Riot

TA2804163588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Report by Yoram Ben-Porat]

[Text] There was a riot in the village of Kafr Salim, east of Nabulus. The IDF arrived at the spot and dispersed the riot using tear gas and rubber bullets. During the action a woman was wounded by a rubber bullet and taken to hospital.

There were also disturbances in Hebron, during which roadblocks made out of rocks were set up in various parts of the town and tires were set on fire. Demonstrations in the town were also dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

A row of trees was uprooted in the village of Shuwaykah in the Tulkarm area. Rockblocks and spikes set up last night on the main traffic arteries running through the village caused a military vehicle to skid. The vehicle was damaged.

An Arab resident of Hebron was arrested today on suspicion of participating yesterday in throwing acid at three policemen in town. The suspect is still being investigated at the Hebron police station and the search continues for more suspects. The three policemen were slightly injured.

The commercial strike in most towns in the West Bank resumed today after a trend over several days to open businesses. Orders of PLO commanders kept all but a few people from leaving for work in Israel.

Youth Killed Near Ramallah

TA2804172488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] An Arab youngster was killed today in Kafr Malik, east of Ramallah, by IDF gunfire after he threw a firebomb at an IDF patrol. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports that upon entering the village the patrol was attacked by a mob of youths.

A woman was wounded this morning by rubber bullets in the village of Salim in Samaria during riots. Clashes with soldiers also occurred in Hebron.

Gazan Stonethrowers Arrested

TA2904085888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Stones were thrown at a car as it passed the village of Musmus in Wadi 'Ara last night, but there were no injuries. The police are investigating the incident.

Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that this morning five Gazans were detained in the village of Yafa near Nazareth. They are suspected of having stoned vehicles passing the village in the last few days.

2 Ministries Open Branches

TA271454 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu has inaugurated a branch of the ministry's Licensing Division in Qiryat Arba'. Minister Corfu said that if necessary, the branch will also provide services to the Arab population. This is the second branch to open in the territories.

Minister Moshe Qatzav is today inaugurating a branch of the National Security Institute in Ma'ale Efrayim. In a visit to Alfe Menashe, the labor and welfare minister said that the Jewish population of Judaea and Samaria is deprived of state services in comparison with the population within the Green Line.

Our correspondent Arye Salman adds that Minister Qatzav has ordered the opening of a branch of the Employment Service in Alfe Menashe in the near future.

Territories Provide 'Nice Income' for Treasury

TA2804154788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 88 p 11

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] One of the ground rules for Israel's economic activity in the territories is to avoid converting them into an economic burden on the Israeli taxpayer. Over the years this has basically been true.

There are even those who claim that the territories provide a nice income, not just for Israelis with commercial ties, but also for the national coffers in Jerusalem.

The latest budget (1987/88) for the Civilian Administration in the territories was more than $300 million. Civilian Administration officials said that 82 percent of this budget is financed by licensing fees and various taxes paid by the residents of the territories; namely, income from the territories. The remaining 18 percent is financed by the state budget.

The current budget (excluding defense expenditures) is expected to be increased by 11 percent in real terms. The increase, which is derived from greater income (the estimations were made before the Civilian Administration could evaluate the decline in income because of the continuing intifadha) [uprising in Arabic], will be entirely directed at widening the services provided by the administration.

In addition to the Civilian Administration's activities budget there are two other sources for public outlay and investment in the territories: aid from Jordan and foreign governments—$75 million in the 1986/87 budget year, and UNRWA—$75 million, mainly directed to the refugee camps.

Public investment in the territories (development expenses, preparing an infrastructure, and other fixed assets), according to the development budgets of the administration and the local councils, comes to a total of 7 percent from West Bank sources and 6 percent from Gaza Strip sources in the past few years.

According to a comparative study carried out by Dr Meron Benvenisti, it appears that the per capita civilian public expenditure in Israel in 1985 was $1,350 while in the territories it was $185, or 13.7 percent of the Israeli level.

In his latest report on West Bank and Gaza Strip statistics, Benvenisti wrote that the attitude of avoiding imposing the economic burden of the territories on the Israeli taxpayer would be logical had it not been based on misleading facts.

The territories were never a financial burden on the Israeli Treasury. On the contrary, the Palestinian population contributed large sums to the Israeli budget, he said.

In the past, Benvenisti points out, part of the donations were returned to the territories to cover the Civilian Administration's budget deficits. In recent years, however, with the cuts in the deficit, these funds are kept by the Treasury.

This refers to various taxes imposed on the residents of the territories officially employed in Israel. These are made up of indirect taxes, such as customs on Palestinian merchandise imported through Israel, and a value-added tax on goods and services bought in Israel by inhabitants of the territories.

To work out the net financial contribution of the Palestinians under Israeli rule to the Israeli Treasury (excluding local taxes) the subsidies allocated to Israeli subsidized goods used in the territories must be deducted.

Benvenisti did calculations over the years and points out that official sources in Israel refuse to publish the sums referred to despite repeated requests. According to his calculations, since 1970 large amounts have been collected by the labor exchange from all Palestinians working legitimately in Israel.

These amounts are made up of 20 percent of the wages of inhabitants of the territories working in Israel and from the employers' contributions to social benefits. While for Israeli workers the sums are transferred in the worker's name to the National Insurance Institute, those deducted from the Palestinians are transferred directly to the Treasury.

The worker from the territories is not entitled to worker's insurance and other various benefits such as maternity, old age, and unemployment allowances, although the funds for these purposes are deducted from their pay.

Since 1970 the "deductions" fund of the workers from the territories has reached—according to Benvenisti—some $800 million. Taking a modest interest rate into account makes the amount $1 billion.

Three quarters of this sum was returned to the territories to cover the Civilian Administration's deficit, but at least $250 million remained in the Treasury and was diverted to Israeli public consumption.

In this context it should be noted that during Israel's 20-year rule in the territories, the total capital investment by the Military Government and Civilian Administration is $400 million, or $20 million annually.

After deducting the subsidies for Israeli foodstuffs sold in the territories, Benvenisti says that the indirect financial contribution of the inhabitants of the territories to Israel reaches some $50 million annually.

Civilian Administration officials in the territories do not argue with Benvenisti about the facts—namely, what happens to the taxes paid by the inhabitants of the territories working in Israel and the customs they pay at Israeli ports.

Defense Ministry officials dealing with the issue, however, believe it involves only $16 million annually. This sum includes direct and indirect taxes, as well as the tax on gasoline.

The Civilian Administration, like any other government body worthy of the name, annually tries to increase its budget. It demands the use of these sums to cover its budgetary needs.

The Treasury is very sensitive on this issue. It says that the Military Government receives a value-added tax, income tax, and the fees levied on licenses in the territories, as well as part(?) [as published] of the taxes on imports of goods across the Jordan bridges. Property tax is handed over to the municipalities.

The total left for the Civilian Administration is $150 to $200 million shekels a year. Regarding the remaining funds, the Treasury says:

"Income derived from economic activity inside Israel by inhabitants of the territories, such as import taxes on goods released at Israeli ports including gasoline, and taxes on workers from the territories employed in Israel,

should remain where the economic activity actually took place. The Treasury opposes transferring these funds to the territories. It bases itself on the claim that taxes deducted at the source belong to the ruling body where the economic activity occurred."

The Treasury's policy on this is in accordance with international and local law stipulating that taxes are paid where the income is generated. Civilian Administration officials, however, pressured the Treasury, and in an extraordinary development, recently began to receive all the customs on vehicles bought by inhabitants of the territories.

Defense Ministry officials claim that although the Treasury has a legal "case," a moral issue is also involved which must be taken into account.

It is difficult to certify the validity of the figures referred to here, but in reference to the $16 million the Civilian Administration claims remains in Israel, and the $50 million Benvenisti refers to, the following can be said with certainty:

A. The territories are not a burden on the Israeli taxpayer.

B. In spite of the amounts deducted monthly and annually by the Israeli Treasury from the inhabitants of the territories, the inhabitants do not receive any compensation in the form of public services or social benefits.

The presentation of the issue as an eternal and ideological struggle between the Civilian Administration, the Defense Ministry, and the Treasury apparently is incorrect.

It is much more reasonable to assume that at a certain stage a decision was reached at the political level to keep these funds in Israel and not use them to upgrade development and services in the territories.

4th DEREKH HANITZOTZ Editor Detained

TA271710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Today the police detained Mikhal Schwartz, a female editor of the newspaper DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE PATH OF THE SPARK] which was closed 2 months ago.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the police also searched the paper's offices and confiscated documents. Mikhal Schwartz is the fourth member of the editorial board of DEREKH HANITZOTZ that has been arrested since the paper was banned for publication.

CP's Vilner on Party Policy, Mideast Issues

AU281013 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 26 Apr 88 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Me'ir Vilner, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, by RUDE PRAVO special correspondent Milan Madr: "Greater Hopes for Peace"; in Tel Aviv on 25 April]

[Text] Tel Aviv (from our special correspondent)—Me'ir Vilner, general secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, gave an interview to our special correspondent in Tel Aviv on Monday [25 April] on current problems in the political situation in the Middle East and Israel, and on the occupied territories and the activity of the Communist Party.

[Madr] Comrade General Secretary, a few days ago Israel celebrated, according to the Jewish lunar calendar, the 40th anniversary of its founding. (According to our calendar the date is 15 May.)

How do you see and assess this period? Let me add, for the benefit of RUDE PRAVO readers, that you will be answering not only as the leading representative of the Communist Party, but also as one of the 37 signatories of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel in 1948.

[Vilner] The creation of the Israeli state was the realization of the Jewish people's right to self-determination in Palestine. The Declaration of Independence contains two crucial passages which government circles fail to mention nowadays.

One of them states that a Jewish state, called Israel, is being created under the UN General Assembly resolution of November 1947. The other passage states that it will cooperate with the UN in implementing that resolution.

This means that the founding of the State of Israel and the Declaration of Independence are based on that resolution. It means, furthermore, that the British mandate was to end, that the British Army was to evacuate its troops, and that two states were to be created—one Arab, and one Jewish.

In the name of our party, I signed a document providing for the creation of two states.

Unfortunately, the Zionist ruling circles did everything to thwart the formation of a Palestinian Arab state. The Declaration of Independence deliberately omitted any mention of the borders of the State of Israel.

Ben-Gurion, the first Israeli prime minister, declared: "Why should we define borders when, quite possibly, we could conquer more?" Moreover, they reached an agreement with the king of what was then Trans-Jordan, who occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The basic problem lies in the fact that a Palestinian Arab state has not been constituted to this very day. That is the cause of wars and tragedies.

It goes without saying that Israel would be unable to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state, were it not for the military, financial, and political support of U.S. imperialism.

As is known, Israel is officially the United States' strategic ally. On the day of the 40th anniversary, President Reagan and Prime Minister Shamir signed a new version of the strategic alliance, simultaneously in Washington and Tel Aviv.

[Madr] Under what internal conditions did this anniversary take place?

[Vilner] It took place in the 21st year of the occupation of Palestinian territories, the Syrian Golan Heights, and parts of southern Lebanon. I can only add that occupation and the barbarous methods of oppression changed the situation within Israel from bad to even worse.

Brutality is symptomatic of our life. The enormous military spending is ruinous for public services such as education and health care and reduces the living standard of the working people.

At the same time, we bear witness to a realistic development in the Arab states and in the PLO, which we regard as the only representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO is ready for a historical compromise, as it were, by agreeing to the creation of an independent Palestinian state along the borderline that existed prior to the 6-Day War in June 1967, that is, on the territories of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and not according to borders under the UN General Assembly resolution of November 1947.

[Madr] The uprising of the Palestinian people is continuing and gathering momentum. Israeli society is, once again, at an important crossroads, politically and morally. What should happen, in your opinion, and what do you think will actually happen?

[Vilner] The Palestinian uprising is a truly popular uprising. It is not a struggle against the Israeli people or even the Israeli state. It is a just struggle for national liberation, for the formation of an independent Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state.

That is why we express our solidarity with the uprising and vigorously condemn the killing of more than 200 and the wounding of many thousands of Palestinians by the occupation forces.

We equally condemn the murder of the Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir in Tunisia. It was an act of state terrorism that can only exacerbate the situation. The aim of this murder was to sabotage current international efforts to convene an international conference under UN auspices, with the aim of achieving general, just, and lasting peace.

The conference should be convened with the participation of all interested parties, including Israel and the PLO.

The PLO is practically ready to recognize the Israeli state. Regrettably, the Israeli Government is not ready to do the same, that is, to practically recognize the other main party to the conflict—the Palestinian people represented by the PLO.

All difficulties notwithstanding, the hope of achieving peace in the Middle East is now greater. New factors have appeared that influence the situation, such as the beginning of an improvement in international relations, supported by the agreement between the USSR and the United States on eliminating two classes of missiles, and also the agreement on Afghanistan.

The Afghan solution could serve as an example of how to settle regional conflicts with international assistance.

[Madr] How is this development reflected within Israel?

[Vilner] The polarization within Israel is deepening. An ever larger number of people, including people in political circles, understand that the occupation cannot last forever, that it is dangerous for Israel itself, that peace can be achieved only by both sides' recognition of the right to self-determination and to an independent state, and that the other main party to the conflict is the PLO and not King Husayn of Jordan, or the so-called authentic Palestinians manipulated by Israel.

[Madr] In a recent interview you declared that the U.S. Administration had already put the Middle East problem on ice, as they say, but that the uprising has forced it to undertake something, which is how the Shultz plan came about.

[Vilner] Israel, which suppresses the Palestinian people by barbarous methods, is now isolated in the world as never before and even Western governments cannot avoid denouncing their Israeli friends.

The Shultz plan did not come about to bring about a peace conference, but to save the face of the U.S. Administration and its Israeli allies in the eyes of the Arab people and world public opinion.

However, Shultz himself has discredited himself by his declaration containing four noes: no to a Palestinian state; no to the participation of the PLO; no to an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 line; and no to a real international conference.

I would like to stress that we are not against the Shultz plan because it is a U.S. plan, but because it is not a peace plan. It does not even propose a discussion on the attainment of general peace. It merely proposes the creation of so-called autonomy under Israeli occupation.

[Madr] At its last, 20th, congress in December 1985 the Communist Party of Israel set itself very demanding targets in, for instance, expanding its political influence, in its ideological struggle, and in expanding its membership base. How does the party implement these and other targets?

[Vilner] I can say that the political influence of our party is now greater than in the past. Together with the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, we were the only political factor in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) which voted against the aggression against Lebanon in 1982.

The fact that the invasion of Lebanon turned out to be a political and military flop has made many people begin to respect our Party and the Democratic Front, and to declare in public that truth and genuine national interests are on our side.

A few years ago we were the only party to demand the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Meanwhile, two more political parties—MAPAM and RATZ (Movement for Human Rights and Peace)—have accepted this principle.

The fact that our political influence has grown does not mean that all those who approve of political positions of which we once were the only proponents recognize our copyright and that they will vote for us in the next parliamentary elections. Nonetheless, we are not politically isolated, as we were in the past.

As for ideological work, the greatest interest within the party and among sympathizers is aroused by the discussion of questions such as the problems of socialism on the one hand and of capitalism on the other, Marxist-Leninist approaches to the nationality issue, questions concerning restructuring in the USSR and other socialist countries, as well as past problems and experiences, both positive and negative, notably those of the Soviet Union.

There has been some growth in the party membership since the last congress, and subscriptions to the party press have increased. Sales of AL-ITTIHAD, our party's daily in Arabic, for instance, have increased by some 30 percent since the congress.

[Madr] In March, a motion was put forward in an Israeli Knesset committee that the Communist Party of Israel be outlawed. What is the broader background of this serious matter?

[Vilner] There is a trend toward restricting democratic rights in Israel today. Under the authorities' arbitrary decision, our organ AL-ITTIHAD was not allowed to be published for a week in March. DEREKH HANITZOTZ (The Path of the Spark), the weekly of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, was suspended altogether and three members of its editorial council have been arrested.

It is not known how long they will be jailed because they have neither been sentenced nor have they been notified of the reasons for their detention and arrest. In this case the Israeli authorities resorted to an old British colonial ruling.

There are other instances of communists having been arrested. For instance, the first secretary of the city committee in Rafat (in the south of the country) and a member of the city party committee have been arrested on the basis of trumped-up charges to restrict our activity in connection with the approaching parliamentary elections, which will be held on 1 November.

These and other arrests are only one of the symptoms of the growing threat of fascism in our country. The motion to outlaw the Communist Party of Israel was put forward by a deputy belonging to the right-wing Likud bloc.

However, the great majority of members of the Internal Affairs Committee took a stand against the motion.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives With Message for King

JN281459 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1447 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Amman, 28 Apr (PETRA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Amman this afternoon on a brief visit to Jordan during which he will convey a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

In a statement to PETRA, the Syrian minister said the message pertains to the latest regional developments and to the consultations being held by the two fraternal states on some Arab issues within the framework of the continuing process of bilateral coordination on various issues.

The Syrian minister was welcomed at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Al-Asad Letter

JN281748 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It was delivered by Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he called on his majesty this evening at Al-Nadwah Palace.

The letter falls within the framework of consultations and coordination between his majesty and His Excellency President al-Asad.

The letter deals with current Arab meetings to coordinate joint stands and efforts to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the court minister, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

First Microwave Phone Link With Egypt Installed

JN280841 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan and Egypt Wednesday conducted the first microwave telephone communication, which was recently installed, linking the two countries through the Aqaba-Sinai peninsula zone.

The telephone contact was made by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid al-Haj Hasan with his Egyptian counterpart Sulayman Mutawalli, which came in the course of Egypt's celebrations of the liberation of Sinai from Israeli rule.

The project was implemented in response to a resolution taken by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, according to Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication official.

The official said that with the introduction of the new system 300 telephone channels have been opened for the benefit of people of both countries in addition to the satellite communication channels.

He said that 120 channels of the new system will be assigned for direct contacts between Egypt and Jordan, 120 others for contacts between Jordan and Europe through Egypt and 60 for transit calls made in Egypt for links with Syria, Iraq and the Gulf region through Jordan.

'Displaced Persons' Demonstrate in Beirut

NC2804195788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] On the occasion of Land Day, people displaced from the mountain, areas east of Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub, 'Alayh, and other areas, staged a demonstration this morning.

The demonstrators set out from Sami al-Sulh Street in the direction of Mansur Palace. They carried placards demanding a return to their homes and bearing the names of their villages.

Approximately 3,000 demonstrators gathered outside the Chamber of Deputies. A delegation met with the Chamber's secretary general and gave him a memorandum containing their demands, signed by the mayors, mukhtars, and prominent personalities of Al-Shuf, 'Alayh, Upper al-Matn, Iqlim al-Kharrub, the villages east of Sidon, and the southern suburb.

The memorandum stressed that the issue of displaced persons must take priority in any solution and that these people must be enabled to return to their homes and villages.

The demonstrators dispersed after blocking the Museum-Al-Barbir road for some time. During the demonstrations, some shooting was heard. It transpired that a member of the security forces fired in the air to regulate the course of the demonstration.

Shots Fired; 7 Wounded

NC2804194888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] A massive demonstration set out from Sami al-Sulh Street for Mansur Palace [seat of the Chamber of Deputies] at 1000 this morning, in response to an invitation by the [Phalangist] Mountain Bureau on the 3d anniversary of the displacement of the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Kharrub and areas east of Sidon.

Four representatives of the demonstrators handed a copy of their demands, addressed to Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and the deputies, to Ihsan Abu Khalil secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies. The memorandum contained the following nine points:

1. Those who believed that the eviction of the Christians would solve their problems are mistaken.

2. Those who thought that time and forgetfulness would weaken our cause are mistaken as well.

3. Our cause revolves around the need for a safe and dignified return to our areas.

4. This return must be total, and must be to each and every plot of land, home, and church.

5. Any talk about reform while displacement continues is meaningless.

6. Most of the officials concerned in the government and the Chamber of Deputies treat our cause lightly and irresponsibly.

7. We want to remind those who are still living in the past of the details concerning the decision allocating 300 million Lebanese pounds [to the evacuees].

8. The countries concerned with finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis must know that any solution must start with a remedy for the issue of the Christian evacuees and must ensure their full and dignified return.

9. All partial and precautionary solutions are rejected. Only firm and complete solutions that are in harmony with the need for return will be acceptable.

As soon as the demonstrators approached Mansur Palace, they were fired on. Seven persons were wounded as a result.

Lebanese Front Objects

NC2804202088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Front following its meeting on 28 April; read by Phalangist Party leader George Sa'dah; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Lebanese Front devoted most of its regular meeting yesterday to discussing the question of the suffering of the displaced persons. The Front has always been and still is familiar with their cause.

A peaceful and civilized demonstration was staged this morning by some Lebanese citizens on the occasion of the anniversary of their eviction from their land.

The Lebanese Front was displeased to find that this demonstration, which took place under the protection of the internal security forces, was distorted. The demonstrators' only guilt was that they were demanding their natural right to return to their villages and homes.

The demonstrators, most of whom were elderly people, women who were led by municipal officials, [word indistinct], and notables from the displaced areas, were on their way to the Chamber of Deputies to submit a memorandum to the representatives of the people expressing their suffering and their aspirations, when they were fired on.

The Lebanese Front, while strongly denouncing this flagrant aggression against innocent and defenseless citizens who were armed only with a firm belief in the justice of their cause, calls for an immediate investigation of those responsible for this act of oppression.

This act runs counter to the simplest rules of democracy and the human being's legitimate right to express himself in a civilized way.

Upon learning about the incident, the Front at once got in touch with officials at the highest level. The Front calls for an immediate investigation into the matter and for the severest punishment for the culprits.

The Front will follow up the issue until the misdeed is rectified and the dignity of those citizens is preserved.

The Front would like to stress the sacred right of displaced persons to return to their villages in full dignity, and wishes to declare that the Lebanese crisis will not be solved unless a solution is first found for the issue of displaced persons. This constitutes a prerequisite for any solution.

Libyan Reportedly Missing in West Beirut

NC2904103288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] According to security sources in West Beirut, a Libyan national, Naji Salim Shutayt, disappeared in the Mar Ilyas quarter in West Beirut a week ago while visiting relatives.

It should be recalled that a Syrian organization calling itself the Al-Sadr Brigades claimed in February to have kidnapped a Libyan national in West Beirut, saying he was a Libyan intelligence agent.

Israelis Overfly South; Gunboats Search Ship

NC2804171488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1643 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have resumed their activities in Lebanese skies. They flew at medium altitude over the South and Sidon at noon today.

Maritime sources in Sidon have reported that Israeli gunboats intercepted a cargo vessel this morning while it was proceeding to the port of Sidon. The personnel of the gunboats searched the ship only a few miles from shore.

Southern Villages Raided

NC2804211188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Our correspondent has reported from the South that an Israeli force supported by a force of agents has stormed the villages of Kafr Shuba, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, Kafr Hamam, Halta, and Al-Hibbariyah in Al-'Urqub and searched scores of houses for resistance fighters. They interrogated over 170 persons and detained over 25 of them on charges of supporting resistance fighters.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew at low altitude over the hills of Al-'Urqub and the area in which military confrontations took place between resistance fighters and the occupation forces the past 2 days.

Amal Fighters Attack SLA Post in South

NC2804101888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] A group of the Lebanese resistance battalions, Amal, last night launched a machinegun and rocket attack against an agent post at Tallat Bra'shit, killing or wounding many of its personnel.

Consequently, the enemy violently shelled the outskirts of the towns of Bra'shit and Shaqra. A group of the resistance battalions then retaliated by firing Katyusha rockets at several border posts at Tallat Markaba and Tallat al-Shaykh 'Abadan.

Meanwhile, when an Israeli force tried to advance toward the town of Yatir at 2300 last night, resistance fighters clashed with it forcing its retreat.

Israeli-SLA Post Hit

NC2904083388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The Lebanese resistance battalions, Amal, issued a statement saying that at dawn this morning some of its groups launched a rocket and machinegun attack on the Al-Haddathah post, jointly held by the Israeli enemy and its agents.

The statement adds that a violent 15-minute clash ensued during which the resistance fighters destroyed a machinegun emplacement and scored direct hits.

The attack caused confusion in the ranks of enemy soldiers in the area. The occupation forces' artillery pounded the area around the scene of this operation with 120-mm mortar shells from their posts in Tallat Rshaf and Tallat Humayd. The Amal artillery returned the fire, scoring direct hits. The fighters then returned safely to their bases.

Birri Rejects Hizballah Demands; Tension 'High'

NC2904054688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Citing political observers, REUTER says that despite Iran's claims to have successfully contained hostilities between rival Shi'ite groups in Lebanon's South and the southern suburb, tension is still high between these groups due to their deep political differences.

Inhabitants of the South say Hizballah is secretly reorganizing its ranks. Political observers believe that the gap between the Amal Movement and Hizballah over domestic and regional issues remains wide.

A political source has told REUTER that the two organizations have quite different ideologies and goals which are difficult to reconcile.

A high-ranking Amal source revealed that Minister Nabih Birri has rejected Hizballah demands, relayed by Iranian mediators, that members of that party be allowed to engage in political activities and wage attacks on Israel from the South. Nabih Birri also refused to return to Hizballah the weapons confiscated by Amal during recent fighting.

According to an Islamic analyst, Birri's rejection attests to the Amal Movement's mistrust of the fundamentalist party. Birri fears that Hizballah may attempt to regain its lost power in the South, despite assurances from the Iranian mediation delegation.

A security report from the South notes that there was tension in Al-Ghaziyah this afternoon when the Iranian mediation delegation attempted to enter the area. Amal set up checkpoints on the coastal road between Al-Ghaziyah and Tyre to prevent the delegation from passing. However, the delegation was eventually allowed to proceed following intensive contacts.

In Al-Biqa', tension persists following clashes between Amal and Hizballah in Yuhmur last night in which two men were wounded.

Meanwhile, Israeli radio has said the Amal Movement uncovered a large depot of weapons belonging to Hizballah and Palestinians near the Al-Zahrani River. A large number of rocket launchers and explosives was found in the depot.

Amal Demands 'More Equitable' Treatment by Iran

NC2904060688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Amal official Da'ud Da'ud has said that Amal refuses to be subservient to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking in Tyre today before the Iranian delegation that is seeking to settle the Amal-Hizballah conflict, Da'ud said that the movement demands more equitable treatment by Iran.

To be more frank, Da'ud said, we used to be treated as slaves while others were being treated as freemen. The Islamic Republic of Iran should treat its sons equally, like a good father, he said.

9 February Claims Attack on Syrian Post in North

NC2904055488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization communicated with Radio Free Lebanon this evening and declared its responsibility for an attack against a Syrian Army position in the Al-Kurah area in the north at dawn today. A Syrian soldier was killed and an officer wounded in the attack.

Junblatt Cited on Election, Domestic Situation

PM281341 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Apr 88 p 16

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader and minister of public works, transportation, and tourism, by unnamed correspondent in Riyadh; date not specified]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: What is the purpose of your visit to Riyadh and meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd], and what did you both discuss?

Junblatt: Saudi Arabia has a major role in the Arab world and I came to confer about the latest developments in the international and Arab political situation, emphasize the relationship between the custodian of the two holy mosques and us, and to find ways to deal with the future and confront the dangers surrounding Lebanon and the Arab world.

AL-HAWADITH: What did the custodian of the two holy mosques say about Lebanon's hopes and anxieties and the Saudi position toward them?

Junblatt: The custodian of the two holy mosques is concerned about Lebanon's unity and sovereignty, as well as its independence, peace, and security. We know of the efforts he made last year in this regard.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the presidential election will end with a president that will solve or rather manage the crisis, or do you expect an agreement on political reforms to be reached before the election?

Junblatt: We hope to achieve radical political reforms to deal with the crisis. But, I do not know how we will achieve that before the election, which is already approaching, in view of the existence of some forces that reject political reform.

Amin al-Jumayyil is on one side and the Lebanese Forces are on the other. I am not at all optimistic about reforms being made before the election.

AL-HAWADITH: What has U.S.-Syrian-Lebanese coordination achieved regarding a solution to the crisis?

Junblatt: The U.S.-Syrian-Lebanese contacts were made to reach a minimum level of political reform, but so far no results have been achieved.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Lebanon have a share in the international conference?

Junblatt: Lebanon could have a share in the international conference. But, of course, such a conference cannot remedy our internal problems, since these are purely Lebanese affairs.

The Lebanese crisis will persist despite the talk about an international conference because, as I have said, it is above all else linked to political reforms being made and sectarianism being abolished.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the problem of the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon?

Junblatt: True, the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon is an essential matter that should be discussed and settled at, or even before, the international conference.

But, as I said, the question of political reform is purely Lebanese. And I do not believe that President Reagan and President [as published] Gorbachev will be concerned about political reform in Lebanon within the framework of an international conference.

AL-HAWADITH: But some say that there are many international parties to the Lebanese crisis?

Junblatt: True. When Israel stops helping the Lebanese Phalangists and when some international quarters stop using Lebanon against the Arabs and against Syria in particular, problems in Lebanon will then be resolved in a better way.

AL-HAWADITH: Has the Progressive Socialist Party a specific view regarding political reforms in light of the contacts recently made?

Junblatt: We obviously maintained a radical viewpoint during recent contacts, namely that political sectarianism should be abolished and one electoral area should be established in Lebanon, in the sense that Lebanon as a whole should become one electoral area.

In addition, the present election system should be reconsidered and the Army should be rehabilitated on a national and Arab basis. These are some principles, but, of course, true participation must be via the Council of Ministers, which is the responsible authority, not the president of the Republic who, under our present Constitution, enjoys full powers and is accountable to no one.

AL-HAWADITH: But the PSP has a presidential candidate. Does this mean the perpetuation of the system of political sectarianism?

Junblatt: We have nominated a program, not an individual; we have nominated a political program. The points I have just mentioned are some of its elements.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that postponement is the likely solution?

Junblatt: We will not postpone the election. But we believe that Amin al-Jumayyil is trying to postpone and extend it in one way or another. We must expect anything, any political and bloody surprises from that man.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there coordination between the PSP and the Amal Movement in connection with the presidential election?

Junblatt: We hope that matters will return to normal.

AL-HAWADITH: How does the PSP leader view the Palestinian uprising 6 months after its eruption?

Junblatt: At the very least the uprising in the [West] Bank and [Gaza] Strip has stopped the camps war. And I hope this war will stop forever and all Arab resources and efforts will unite to back the Palestinians in the Bank and Strip and on every inch of Palestinian territory.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the current Palestinian presence in the South?

Junblatt: There is a Palestinian presence throughout all of Lebanon. It is the duty of Lebanese citizens to unite such a presence and coordinate with it to agree on some details, or rather on the Cairo agreement, to find out whether or not it is suitable. The Damascus agreement was concluded in Damascus, and it is both frank and clear.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you not allow the hijacked Kuwaiti plane to land at Beirut International Airport?

Junblatt: And why should we allow the plane to land? We cannot bear the responsibility for such a vile operation. Orders were clear and frank: not to permit a landing, whatever the consequences.

AL-HAWADITH: Let us return to the international peace conference or the conference aimed at securing a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. Do you see it as the ideal form being proposed to settle the crisis?

Junblatt: I fear that the international conference could be a cover for isolated deals like Camp David, but it is the solution being proposed, and we have to wait and see.

AL-HAWADITH: What is Walid Junblatt's opinion of the present influential figures in the Lebanese press?

Junblatt: The Lebanese press was created and born free to express public opinion. The Lebanese press had the ability to bring down a government when there was a need to see and expose corruption.

It was a war against corruption, but the Lebanese press experienced major tragedies and many of its prominent figures were assassinated.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people fear that convulsive political reactions could result in Lebanese "cantons."

Junblatt: It was the Phalangists who began and are still continuing the war. Therefore it is they who should bear the responsibility. The only canton that exists is the Christian Phalangist canton, if that is the right phrase.

The Phalangist plan is to control Jabal Lubnan, that is, the areas controlled by the PSP, in order to link Jazzin with Suq al-Gharb so that Jabal Lubnan will be under the Phalangists' control.

In 1982 [late President] Bashir al-Jumayyil tried that, but failed. If he had succeeded he would have expelled the Druze from Jabal Lubnan and would have tried to reduce the Muslim majority in Beirut, just as he did when he hit and burned the southern suburb, in order to control all of Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you see the dissolution of the militias as a beginning for a political solution?

Junblatt: The militias will not be dissolved. Nor will we lay down our arms before political guarantees are provided. So long as we see a Phalangist plan linked to the West and Israel, Israel still on Lebanese territory, and the Lebanese Army as the main tool of repression, we will not lay down our arms.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you see Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] assassination as a beginning for further assassinations?

Junblatt: In my view no one enjoys the importance of Abu Jihad in the Palestinian revolution. That is why they assassinated him. That, of course, excludes Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the great political symbol of the struggle of the Palestinian revolution.

British Government Appoints New Ambassador

NC270928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr

[Text] Yesterday, the British Government announced the appointment of (Alan Ramsey) as new British ambassador in Beirut. He will replace Ambassador John Gray, who has been in Beirut for 3 years.

The Foreign Office statement said that Gray will be transferred to another diplomatic post; it did not specify where. The new ambassador is fluent in Arabic, having studied it at Durham University in northern England and the Middle East Arab Studies Center in Beirut.

Japan To Reopen Embassy, Provide Assistance

NC2904054688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] During discussions he held in Toyko, Eng Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, was given Japanese affirmation that the Japanese Embassy in Beirut will be reopened as soon as possible.

He was also assured that Japan will also begin to give essential equipment to the internal security forces and the Lebanese Electricity Authority, as well as educational assistance in the form of scholarships to Lebanese students.

Al-Shar' Delivers Message, Returns to Damascus

JN282058 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at Al-Nadwah Palace in Amman this afternoon.

Al-Shar' conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The audience was attended by Zayd al-Rifa'i, Jordanian prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; and Majid Abu Salih, Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah hosted an Iftar banquet in honor of Al-Shar'. It was attended by the interior and occupied territories affairs ministers and a number of Jordanians.

The foreign minister returned to Damascus tonight. He was seen off at Amman airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

WAKH Cites Paper on Al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting

JN291045 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Amman, 29 Apr (WAKH)—The newspaper AL-FAJR issued in occupied Jerusalem yesterday published excerpts from the minutes of the Palestinian-Syrian summit meeting held between Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad in Damascus last Monday.

The meeting lasted approximately 4 hours. AL-FAJR reported the main points raised by the Syrian president during his meeting with 'Arafat.

The Syrian president began his remarks by welcoming 'Arafat to Damascus. He pointed out that the martyrdom of Palestinian commander Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was a great loss. Al-Asad said Abu Jihad's martyrdom was a loss not only to the Palestinian people but also to the Arab nation.

Afterward, the Syrian president touched on the U.S. plans being proposed in the Middle East, particularly Shultz' recent initiative. Addressing 'Arafat, Al-Asad said he noted that the U.S. plans are only political maneuvers which attempt to undermine the Arab stand.

The Syrian president revealed that Shultz, during his recent tour, offered him a large, attractive deal whose details were not dislcosed in return for sabotaging the uprising in the occupied territories.

Al-Asad said he vehemently rejected this U.S. offer and advised Shultz that he need not return again to Syria. Al-Asad reviewed the new platform of the Israeli Labor Party announced a few days earlier. Al-Asad said this platform is the same as the Likud's platform.

Regarding Palestinian-Syrian differences, Al-Asad told 'Arafat: My differences with you are not personal but political. He pointed to Palestinian-Egyptian relations but did not ask the PLO to sever these relations.

He said his country does not interfere in the PLO's internal affairs and that it respects the PLO's policy. However, Al-Asad said: We are of the opinion that it is necessary to have a very high degree of coordination between Syria and the PLO.

He said Syria wants to create a form of interaction among the various Palestinian factions to solidify a firm and integrated Palestinian stand as well as interaction between the PLO and the Lebanese national parties and forces for the sake of confrontation in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Receives Romanian Official 28 Apr

JN281204 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mr Servo [as heard], Romanian assistant minister of foreign trade, at 1000 today. Eng Muhammad Madani, minister of irrigation, and Paraschiv Benescu, Romanian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with a number of issues of interest to both friendly countries.

Paper Reiterates Stand on Palestine Question

JN281130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "The One Cause and The One Destiny," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today:

It is not embarrassing to reiterate our assertion that the Palestine question is our first cause and that we in this country put this question in a special, sacred position.

As far as we are concerned, this is not a temporary matter, nor is it a sentimental outburst, nor a desire for pan-Arab boasting, nor a pursuit of narrow regional interest.

This has always been a firm Syrian policy which has never abated. This policy has rather been bolstered by words and deeds and by the offering of sacrifices in the most crucial times of the Palestine question.

Syria cannot depart from its stand on the Palestine question. There will be no sellout, retreat, partial solutions, or separate deals. The brave uprising was born from the deep wound, ordeal, and suffering.

The stone-throwing generation restored the right to decisionmaking through its arms and sacrifices. When these events occurred, they were an expression of the credible Syrian stand and the sincere policy which Syria never relinquished.

When the U.S. Administration promptly tried to circumvent the uprising through the Shultz proposals whose content was worse than the Camp David accords, the Syrian stand and decision were actually the basic component of the line of steadfastness and confrontation.

Leader Al-Asad, through a clear outlook and deep reading of events, raised the four required points to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. These points were: an effective international conference; an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; recognition of all rights of the Palestinian Arab people; and participation in the international conference through a unified Arab delegation, including the PLO.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syrian stands do not emanate from an assessment of people away from an assessment of sound courses. The Syrian policy on the Palestine question is a clear-cut one.

Any approach to this policy will be an approach to Syria. Likewise, any move away from this policy will be moving away from Syria and will create differences with Syria.

Moreover, Syria has reservations over the course adopted by some parties. This course includes inclinations toward bargaining, retreat, and relinquishment of basic constants.

But when these parties return to the nationalist path, the constant Palestinian line, Palestinian unity, and adherence to the pan-Arab policy that rejects partial solutions and confronts concessions, sellout, and capitulation, then the estrangement and differences will be removed and replaced with unity and cohesion.

As much as they approach this line, they will always find Syria side by side and hand in hand with them in the battle of the same destiny and the one cause.

Afghanistan

Rockets Land Near Presidential Palace in Kabul

BK2904094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 29 (AFP) — Afghan rebels fired five rockets on central Kabul overnight, one of them landing near the presidential palace, Western diplomats said here Friday.

It was not known if there were any casualties. The presidential palace is guarded by Soviet troops.

It was the first time in more than six months that the mujahidin had fired rockets on the centre of the capital, the diplomats said.

The rockets used in the overnight attack were 122 mm Chinese-made devices with a maximum range of seven to eight kilometers, they said.

'Extremists' Using Terrorism To Weaken Morale

LD290826 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 28, BAKHTAR—The extremists by organising the explosion of a bomb blasted in a vehicle in centre of Kabul city, in front of Pamir cinema martyred six persons and injured forty-nine others including children and women.

This is not the first time that the criminal extremists resorted to such horrible crime during the fasting month. Last year, during the fasting month when the employees of Spinghar Construction Plant were heading towards their homes [they] were attacked by armed extremists, as a result of which thirteen innocent workers were martyred.

During the years of revolution the extremists assassinated over 1,000 clergymen, hundreds of physicians, teachers, engineers and national and patriotic personalities.

The extremists poisoned the drinking water of kindergartens and schools. They shot down by American Stinger missiles and British Blowpipes passenger airplans as a result of which hundreds of children and women were martyred.

The extremists destroyed and arsoned tens of libraries, two thousand schools, half of all health centres and 254 mosques. The extremists damaged the shrine of Prophet Muhammad in Qandahar Province and murdered its preachers.

The extremists this time commit the crime at a time when the policy of national reconciliation opens its path to the hearts of the people and received the comprehensive support of the international community.

The Geneva accord was signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan for ending war and fratricide. The only side opposed to it is the extremists.

The conclusion of Geneva accords provided the grounds for the return of refugees and puts an end to foreign interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Elections to National Assembly ended victoriously and the formation of a coalition government is in process on the basis of a multi-party system.

These developments have taken place in the interest of peace. However, these achievements have embarrassed the extremists and they are striving to weaken the people's morale by resorting to stealthy subversive activities.

Najibullah Holds News Conference 29 Apr

LD290627 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 28, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received here today for a press conference journalists of foreign countries who have come here for participation in the tenth anniversary celebration of April Revolution.

At the beginning of the conference, President Najibullah pinpointed the gains of the April Revolution in the past ten years. In the past ten years the path traversed was difficult and the April Revolution was converted to our history.

Our successes in socio-economic spheres are many and it could be ever more greater had the war not been imposed upon the Afghan people.

The expenses of war swallow sixty per cent of state budget, the president said.

The president answered questions posed by foreign journalists during the press conference.

Likewise, the foreign journalists who have come to Kabul to take part in the 10th anniversary celebration of the April Revolution participated here today in a press conference.

During the conference two returnees and three commanders of the opposition groups who joined the process of national reconciliation answered to the questions of the journalists.

A representative of the State Committee for Returnee Affairs spoke on the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the facilities provided by the state for the returnees as well.

Soviet Ties To Continue

BK2804155588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 28 (AFP)—Afghan troops are strong enough to defend the country on their own once Soviet troops withdraw, but Kabul will maintain close military ties with Moscow, Afghan President Najibullah said here Thursday.

At a 90-minute press conference, Mr. Najibullah said that Soviet soldiers would not leave behind their weapons for use by Afghan forces when they begin their phased withdrawal on May 15.

Soviet-established military installations would, however, continue to be used by the Afghan Armed Forces, the Afghan leader said.

Soviet military advisers would also remain in Afghanistan, he added.

"Our military cooperation with the Soviet Union dates back to 23 years before the Afghan revolution," Mr. Najibullah said.

"It is not our desire to stop our close military cooperation (with Moscow)," the Afghan leader said through an interpreter.

"Our Armed Forces have the capability to defend the country when armed external interference ceases," Mr. Najibullah said, referring to U.S. aid for the Afghan resistance relayed through Pakistan.

"Government power has been established in all provinces and there are no areas which we cannot defend when the limited contingent of Soviet troops leaves," he said.

"No one has taken Kabul and no one will take it in the future," he added.

Mr. Najibullah answered questions on a wide range of issues relating to the April 14 Geneva agreement with Pakistan which paved the way for the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops after a nine-year military presence.

He said he was confident that implementation of the accords, guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union, would restore peace to his war-torn country and lead to a halt in fighting which has left a million Afghans dead.

Mr. Najibullah again asked the Afghan resistance, whose leadership is based in Pakistan, to accept his call for national reconciliation and join a coalition government.

"Formation of a coalition government is a task for the Afghans," he said. "We should reconcile more and more to stop further bloodshed, so that we do not see each other through the barrel of a gun."

Mr. Najibullah said his People's Democratic Party and government were ready to negotiate with the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance "anywhere, any place" and he asked the mujahidin leadership to reciprocate.

"The Afghan people are hoping that the wisdom of their leaders overcomes their political selfishness, political shortsightedness," he said.

Mr. Najibullah said Afghanistan wanted to live as an "independent, non-aligned country, a friend of the Soviet Union and all neighbours and nations of the world."

"We will spare no efforts for this," he added.

The Afghan leader ruled out an early release of French photo-journalist Alain Guillo, serving a 10-year prison sentence for espionage.

"If a journalist forgets his obligations and illegally enters France with a terrorist group would you let him go?" he said.

Thursday's press conference came two days after the Soviet-backed Kabul government celebrated 10 years in power with a military parade and with a pledge to pursue the fight against the mujahidin.

A large number of foreign journalists are in the Afghan capital ahead of the Soviet pull-out.

Wakil Proposes 'Demilitarized Zones' to UN

LD290833 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 28, BAKHTAR—Foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil has sent a message to the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, informing him about the proposal made by the Republic of Afghanistan to create a demilitarized zones along frontier areas with Pakistan.

The message says that the Republic of Afghanistan tabled the proposal to create proper conditions for the implementation of the Geneva accords and prevention of the probable obstacles in the way of their implementation.

To make the peaceful situation for the return of Afghan refugees, the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to establish demilitarized zone in frontier areas with Pakistan, if the Pakistani side follows the same example, said the message.

This measure will increase the mutual confidence between the two countries Afghanistan, and Pakistan from one side, and it will create peaceful conditions for the return of Afghan refugees as well as implementation of the Geneva accords which is the high aim of the UN organisation, on the other the message stressed.

To fulfill this proposal effectively it is necessary that, the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan not permit the Afghan oppositions to stage military actions in these zone, and the observation of this commitment by two countries be considered as a task of the UN observer, the message added.

The Afghan foreign minister was called upon the UN secretary general to inform the Pakistani authorities about the proposal and let the Republic of Afghanistan be informed of its result.

Najibullah, Keshtmand Message to Soviet Leaders

LD282150 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand have sent the following message of gratitude to Moscow in reply to the message which was sent on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the April revolution, addressed to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; and N.A. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Dear comrades, on behalf of the Afghan leadership and people and from myself personally I express my wholehearted appreciation to you for your friendly and warm congratulations on the occasion of the national festival of the Afghan people, the 10th anniversary of the national and democratic April Revolution.

The 10 years of revolutionary transformations have significantly changed the complexion of Afghanistan and have strengthened our country's sovereignty and independence. The historic relations have been (?strengthened) and good-neighborliness between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have been further expanded and deepened during the years of revolution.

The support of the Soviet Union for our initiatives and proposals in the international arena has left a great mark on the process of the political normalization of the situation around Afghanistan. The role of the Soviet Union in the successful conclusion of the Geneva accords is beyond praise.

The all-round support and solidarity of the Soviet Union with our struggle will remain forever in the minds of the Afghan people. The joint efforts by the Governments of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in normalizing the situation around Afghanistan revealed to all the world the possibility of resolving acute regional conflicts with expressions of goodwill and realism on the part of the sides concerned.

A hopeful future for the peaceful settlement of numerous regional conflicts and the improvement of every international situation will be opened to mankind. The people of Afghanistan have made a firm decision to continue their efforts to establish nationwide peace, to continue to normalize the situation in the region, and to ensure world stability and security.

The Afghan people warmly support the Soviet Union's efforts to improve the international situation and its struggle to create a world that is safe and free from tension.

Afghan-Soviet cooperation will continue to play a role as an example of friendly, equal, and mutually beneficial relations between peoples.

The Tashkent declaration of 7 April opened a new stage in the development of Afghan-Soviet relations.

I wish success to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Government, all the Soviet people, and you personally, dear comrades, in your great activities for the reconstruction of Soviet society, in your indefatigable efforts for peace and security for all the people of our planet.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan

Mines, Industry Minister Meets Czech Counterpart

LD272051 Prague CTK in English 1510 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 27 (CTK correspondent)—Czech Minister of Industry Petr Hojer met here today with Afghan Minister of Mines and Industry and Chairman of the Afghan part of the Czechoslovak-Afghan Mixed Commission for Economic, Trade and Scientific-Technological Cooperation Muhammad Eshaq Kawa and Minister of Light Industries and Foodstuffs Muhammad Tarim.

Their talks focused on further all-round development of Czechoslovak-Afghan economic cooperation and mainly on the extension of mutual contacts in the processing and petrochemical industries.

The construction of a plant in Afghanistan for the production of woven polyethylene containers for artificial fertilizers and other products was specifically mentioned.

Also discussed were the possibilities of imports of Afghan cotton yarn and textiles to Czechoslovakia.

Mujahidin Envisage Soviet Withdrawal Plans

PM271106 Paris LE MONDE in French
26 Apr 88 p 37

[Laurent Zecchini dispatch: "Resistance Leaders Envisage Several Scenarios for Soviet Troop Withdrawal"]

[Text] Peshawar—What route will they choose? They will probably choose the road to the north which crosses the Provinces of Parvan and Baghlan but which makes it necessary to use the Salang tunnel, in a region controlled by Major Mas'ud.

The southern route via Qandahar and Herat is longer and more uncertain. What will they leave behind them? Will it be a collection of buildings, works of art, and villages packed with mines?

Since the signing of the Geneva agreements, the Afghan resistance strategists have been weighing the pros and cons of each scenario. From 15 May 1988 to 15 February 1989, 115,000 Soviet soldiers will leave Afghanistan (half of them before 15 August) and this means that airlifts will not be enough and a large number of men and a large amount of equipment (the equipment which cannot be left for the Kabul regime) will have to be taken out by road.

At the beginning of last week, 'Abdul Haq, one of the main resistance leaders, assembled around 40 military leaders, most of them members of his party—Hezb-e Eslami, which is led by Yunis Khalis.

What was the purpose of that meeting? It was to exchange information. "We must wait and see what attitude the Soviets adopt. Until we know that, we cannot envisage any offensive. At all events, I am not yet fully convinced that they will leave," 'Abdul Haq, who is an expert in sabotage operations, told us.

Simple logic and caution require the Soviets to withdraw by moving from the south to the north, handing over to President Najibullah each of the garrisons which are furthest from the capital, starting with Qandahar.

The danger is that they will freeze the regions north of the capital (but the mujahidin have strongholds there) for an indefinite period and this would start a de facto partition of the country.

Finally it seems certain that the corridor which stretches east toward China—the "finger of Pamir" and Wakhan, territories which have been virtually emptied of their population and where the Soviet Union has established major bases—will never be handed over to the future Afghan Government.

'Abdul Haq, who returned recently from the United States where he underwent surgery (his right foot had been blown off by a mine), thinks, as do most of the leaders of the political parties in Peshawar and the commanders in the field, that the resistance does not have a duty to make it easy for the Soviets to withdraw "with honor."

"After all," he remarked, "if they want a smooth withdrawal, they can only do so by talking to us about it. We will continue our offensives as usual."

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chairman of the alliance of seven resistance parties and leader of Hezb-e Eslami, holds a similar view: If the Soviets reach an agreement with the resistance, "the mujahidin will let them pass."

Ahmad Zia, brother of Maj Mas'ud and his spokesman in Peshawar, is interested in the following stage:

"We are now organizing the forces of the Northern Council (nine provinces militarily united by Mas'ud—LE MONDE editor's note) around Kabul. We are not yet in a position to seize the capital. The important thing is for the Soviets to leave. During the withdrawal, some commanders will try to seize Kabul. We in Jamiyat-e Eslami think that this is a mistake, that it is better to wait for them to withdraw and launch a joint offensive."

According to him, once the Soviets have withdrawn there is no doubt about the result. "The Najib regime (President Najibullah—LE MONDE editor's note) will fall. That is why we must create the right conditions for peace now."

With regard to the capture of Kabul, 'Abdul Haq confirmed: "Yes, it will not take very long." Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of Jabha, one of the "traditionalist" parties, explained that the three royalist parties decided long ago not to attack the Red Army convoys during their withdrawal operations, but such a promise "obviously does not apply to Soviet bases."

Mujadeddi advocates not waiting before attacking the capital, although, like everybody, he is aware that "blunders" are possible. "I hope that there will not be much fighting among us."

On a wall of the house occupied by 'Abdul Haq, there was an extremely detailed plan heavily annotated in Russian. He proudly showed how the capital's main electricity power station works and explained that he can cut off a particular district's electricity according to the resistance fighters' needs.

We were in a room in which the mujahidin were following "evening classes." Films and slides on the fighting were systematically analyzed and discussed. The Afghan fighters have photographs of the types of planes and helicopters used by the Soviets and learn to idenitfy them.

On the wall there were posters of Red Army soldiers and officers showing all the different uniforms and ranks. Finally, there was a sandbox in which miniature tanks were drawn up in battle formation....

'Abdul Haq leaves nothing to chance. This detailed preparation has enabled him to mount some of the boldest operations inside the city, where he apparently has a large network of informants in every ministry.

Most of them are members of the Khalq, one of the two factions in the PDPA. The most important members of Parcham, the second faction, will leave with the Soviets, 'Abdul Haq thinks.

Those who "rally round" will provide him with valuable support during the offensive on the capital, and he is relying on them to take over the ministries and prevent destruction and looting.

"I do not want the offensive to be launched in a fragmented way," he said. "We will do our best to coordinate the action."

Prof Azizullah Lodin, political adviser to Nabi Muhammadi, leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami (one of the three royalist parties), says he is convinced that the Soviet withdrawal will almost immediately produce a wave of demonstrations and acts of sabotage against the Najibullah government and a resurgence in defections from the security forces, thus making the resistance's task easier.

The fall of the pro-Soviet government in Kabul, which is probably ulimately inevitable, depends greatly on the fate which Moscow has in store for President Najibullah.

If the Soviets still regard him as the right man, he will have an uninterrupted flow of modern weapons and the help of numerous Soviet military advisers.

Briefs

Soviet Construction Protocol

Kabul, April 21, BAKHTAR—At a value of six and a half million roubles credit of the Soviet Union constructional equipment will be provided for the microrayon residential areas in Kabul. The equipment will be delivered to the Afghan side in the course of two and a half years. A protocol to this effect was signed by Adina Sanghin mayor of Kabul and Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul today. [Text] [*LD222358 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 22 Apr 88*]

Bangladesh

India Asked To Prevent Airspace Violations

BK2904100088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Bangladesh has drawn the notice of Indian authorities to reported violations of the country's airspace by Indian aircraft. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday, Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam said most of these violations have reportedly taken place in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh Districts. He said Indian authorities have been told to prevent recurrence of such violations.

Shanti Bahini Kill 14 in Chittagong Area

BK2704160388 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] In Chittagong Hill Tracts, 14 people were brutally killed and 2 others injured at Diwanbari and Sowdagarpara border of Matiala upazila [subdistrict] under Khagrachari District when a terrorist group—the so-called Shanti Bahini—fired from a short distance across the border last night. The terrorists set on fire 27 kutcha [mud] houses and one school during the incident. Twenty-eight cattle head were burned alive.

The brutal killings, which came in the wake of a similar ghastly murder of villagers on Monday last, have agitated the tribal, nontribal people of this region. A press release has termed the incident as provocation and disrupting the existing peaceful atmosphere in the hill tracts region.

Ershad Returns Home From Visit to Burma 28 Apr

BK2804131088 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Bangladesh President Ershad returned home Thursday afternoon at the end of his 3-day state visit to Burma. At the formal talks in Rangoon, the two countries primarily concentrated on further exploration of bilateral cooperation and took note of the entire gamut of regional and international issues.

Both Bangladesh and Burma expressed their determination to go ahead with joint venture projects, using each other's expertise, resources and requirements. Fields identified include cement, soda ash, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, paper and pulp industries.

The two delegations felt the need to explore diversification in bilateral trade and agreed to enter into a special trading arrangement. Bangladesh and Burma agreed to take necessary measures for delimiting their maritime boundary in a spirit of accommodation and cooperation.

The two countries also stressed the need for exchange of cultural delegations to strengthen bilateral relations.

India

USSR's Kamentsev Meets Energy, Steel Ministers

BK2804160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The Vindhyachal super thermal power project in Madhya Pradesh is being expanded with the addition of two units of 500 megawatts each. These units to be set up with the Soviet assistance will incorporate the latest technology. The project is being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation.

This was stated by the energy minster, Mr Vasant Sathe, at his meeting with the visiting Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr V.M. Kamentsev, in New Delhi today. Mr Sathe said an Indian team of experts would visit the Soviet Union next month to work out the technical details.

The Soviet Union has assured India of all possible assistance in commissioning the Vishakhapatnam steel plant as per schedule this year. This assurance was given by the visiting deputy prime minister, Mr V.M. Kamentsev, when he called on the minister of steel and mines, Mr M.L. Fotedar, in New Delhi today.

During the meeting the two leaders discussed wide-ranging issues in the field of ferrous metallurgy within the broad framework of India-Soviet cooperation. Both the leaders emphasized the need to achieve the full expanded capacity of 4 millions tons each of Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants and most expeditious supplies and erection work at Vishakhapatnam.

18 Killed in Punjab; Border Patrols Increased

BK2904090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, 18 people have been killed by terrorists since last night. Fourteen persons were killed in Amritsar, three in Gurdaspur, and one in Bhatinda District.

The Border Security Force [BSF] has intensified its patrolling on the India-Pakistan border to check smuggling and infiltration of terrorists. The inspector general of the BSF, Punjab Circle, Mr Prakash Singh, told newsmen in Jullundhur that the number of border pickets has been considerably increased and they have been supplied with sophisticated weapons and other aids.

The erection of obstacle wiring in vulnerable areas along the border is now in progress. A press party fron Chandigarh, which intensively toured the border areas during the last 2 days, saw the work going on.

Gurkha Leader Boycotts New Delhi Meeting

BK2804125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, met in New Delhi today to review the situation in the Darjeeling area.

Mr Buta Singh informed the chief minister the circumstances in which [Gurkha National Liberation Front leader] Mr Ghisingh failed to come to New Delhi to attend the meeting.

The tripartite meeting was earlier agreed upon for a final discussion on various issues relating to the agitation in the area. The home minister felt that efforts to persuade Mr Ghisingh to come to New Delhi for discussions should continue in the larger national interest.

It was agreed that the proposed bill for the hill area will not be introduced during the current session of the West Bengal Assembly which will come to a conclusion during the first week of next month.

It was felt that a special session of the assembly could be convened to consider the bill after exploring all possibilities to come to an agreed solution. The chief minister agreed that he would keep the other political parties informed of the developments.

The unanimity of approach between the Center and the state in resolving the issue was reiterated. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi, also participated in the discussions.

29 Gurkha Activists From Hill Tracts Arrested

BK2804161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Twenty-nine GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists have been arrested from different parts of Darjeeling hill areas. Guns and a huge quantity of explosive materials were recovered during the police raids.

Police sources said a bomb was hurled by GNLF activists at an office building in Darjeeling today causing minor damage.

Today Darjeeling Day was observed in certain parts of hill areas of Darjeeling and Kurseong Subdivision by CPI-M. Public rallies were held at several places.

Commentary Examines Pakistan's Role in Punjab
BK251511 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Apr 88

[V. Narayanan commentary]

[Text] The nation is at last being told, albeit in steady installments, how deep has been the involvement of Pakistan in sustaining terrorism in Punjab and keeping the state on the boil.

For those living close to Punjab, the revelations by the government in parliament during the past fortnight are no surprise. For more than 4 years, it is well known that the Ziaul Haq regime has been playing the benevolent host and patron to separatist elements in a number of ways.

It was an open secret that such well-known advocates of so-called Khalistan as Jagjit Singh Chauhan and Ganga Singh Dhillon have been frequent visitors to Pakistan and they have always been the honored guests of the government in Islamabad.

As early as in 1984, the Government of India took up with President Ziaul Haq the matter regarding the training camps being held in Pakistan for the extremists who had crossed the border from the Indian side of Punjab. It used to be said, not without substance, that much of the purely communal killing in Punjab since 1982 were the handiwork of persons from across the border.

This largely remained true until the terrorists started indiscriminate killing of entire families since early 1987.

The role that smuggling may have played in furthering violence in Punjab is substantial, considering that the smuggling across India-Pakistan border is a multi-crore [rupees] operation.

It is only reasonable to assume that this phenomenon became a major factor in encouraging militant violence in Punjab and keeping alive the campaign for the so-called Khalistan.

Surprise, if any, about the Pakistan hand in the Punjab crisis is on two counts. First, if the Government of India had been aware all along about Islamabad's role, why it had not moved to plug the border, say 2 years ago?

Apparently, India thought that it could cope with the terrorism within the state and also Pakistan's assistance to separatist elements abroad. Obviously, the realization has dawned, definitely belatedly, that neither has been achieved.

The other surprise element is that the Ziaul Haq regime, which has so far been assumed to play the passive role of an onlooker in India's embarrassment across the border, has actually been playing a diabolically dangerous game of active abetment in terrorism.

Four months ago, the intelligence agencies had reported about the use of the deadly Chinese assault rifles AK-47 by the terrorists in Punjab. The total number of these weapons in the hands of the militants were said to be around 200.

Today it is being said that the terrorists might be having as many as 1,500 AK-47 rifles. The terrorists have also equally deadly American weapons AR-15 rockets with launchers and even the devastatingly effective Stinger missiles.

All these could not have been brought to India without the connivance and active participation of Pakistan establishment. There is also evidence that leaders of pro-Khalistan and Sikh extremist organizations in such far off countries as Britain, the United States, and Canada go to Lahore to hold sessions with Punjab extremists using the hitherto porous international border. It is also not a coincidence that many of the recent police encounters with the terrorists have occurred very close to the border with Pakistan.

As it happened, the supply of the sophisticated weapons, either by way of sale or by way of gift, began around the time when [former Punjab police chief] Mr J.F. Ribeiro's brave police officers and men gained the upper hand in the fight against terrorism last November.

Maybe President Ziaul Haq felt that his tacit intervention was necessary to keep up the morale of the Sikh militants. Around this time it became clear that the Soviet Union will be withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan.

It is difficult to guess what Pakistan's calculations are. Maybe Islamabad is counting on engaging India in a massive anti-terrorist battle in Punjab which might help postpone a constructive Afghan settlement.

Or, perhaps, Pakistan needs time to regroup its forces on the northwest front and the best bet was for it to strengthen the separatist forces in Punjab and focus Indian attention only on the internal situation.

In the current battle between the security forces and the armed militants in Punjab, it is necessary to involve the people of Punjab, both Sikhs and Hindus. The nation has to be forcefully assured that terrorists have no religion and that they derive their strength not from the community in Punjab, but from the anti-India elements abroad.

The sealing of the Punjab border, the prevention of smuggling, and the effective plugging of gaps through which the traffic of men and arms flow between India and Pakistan are essential concomitants of the government's anti-terrorist strategy.

As the governor of Punjab, Mr S.S. Ray, has repeatedly said, the Punjab crisis today is not so much an internal issue as an external aggression by proxy. The recent

government emphasis on the Pakistan factor is to show to the country, as well as to the world, that the majority of the Sikhs in Punjab are against the terrorists and only a small minority of anti-national elements are behind the violence and murders in Punjab.

While there is no need to whip up hysteria over the Pakistan machinations, the neighbor in the northwest must be told that meddling in the Punjab problem will be a dangerous game.

The aggressive intent by the Ziaul Haq regime on the Siachen also indicates Pakistan's desire to prevent any prospect of normalization of relations between the two countries, even while avoiding direct confrontation.

Pakistan Troop Deployment in Kashmir Noted

BK2804105588 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 19 Apr 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Jammu, 18 April, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA—The Jammu and Kashmir government is preparing to evacuate citizens along the 500-meter long international border from Kathua to Chhamb.

The state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, hinted this at a joint meeting of the cabinet and the Jammu District Board today. Meanwhile, revenue authorities are assessing the scope of resettling the people affected by this operation.

These steps are being taken as part of the overall strategy for preventing entry of arms and trained terrorists from Pakistan. The imposition of a night curfew in border villages and other security measures are being taken under this strategy.

According to reports received from New Delhi, concern was expressed during the zero hour in the Lok Sabha on Pakistan's war-like preparation at the Kashmir border in response to India's action to seal its borders.

Former Minister K.K. Tiwari said that Pakistan is deploying its regular troops at the border in place of rangers with a war in mind. Mr T.T. Basheer of the Congress-I also expressed a similar opinion. Both demanded that the home minister, Buta Singh, make a statement on the subject. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Regional Drug Trafficking

BK2704105988 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Commentary by AIR Islamabad correspondent R.K. Mathur]

[Text] Indian and Pakistani officials concerned with narcotics control and smuggling had reasons to be satisfied with 1 year of cooperation when they met for the second time in Islamabad on Sunday and Monday last. Between themselves the two countries have made 24 references to each other during the last 12 months with good results. One case is already being talked of around the world as a classic example of cooperation among states for narcotics control.

To quote the leader of the Indian delegation and director general of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Mr B.V. Kumar, very shortly the two countries are going to exchange dossiers on notorious smugglers which will further the cooperation between the two countries in narcotics control.

The two countries have ample scope for deriving benefit from pooling their information and by cooperating in dealing with drug trafficking. While Pakistan has the potential to produce between 100 and 130 metric tons a year, it has also to contend with a population of 500,000 drug addicts.

The chairman of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, Mr Darshad Najimuddin, feels that with energetic government efforts to destroy poppy crops in traditional poppy growing areas, not enough drug is produced to go round even the local market.

He feels that part of the heroin smuggled from Afghanistan is being used up locally in Pakistan itself. The fact remains that the so-called Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia has been displaced by the Golden Crescent as the world's major supplier of heroin.

Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan together produce over 1,100 metric tons of heroin every year. Heroin and charas [hashish] seized in India is generally of Pakistani origin.

During 1985 heroin of Pakistani origin seized in India was 71.5 percent of the total heroin seized that year. In case of charas also 38.5 percent of the total seized in 1985 was of Pakistani origin.

During the first 2 months of 1988 as much as 10,704 kg of charas of Pakistan origin was seized in India accounting for 97.7 percent of all charas seized in these 2 months.

Among India's recent concerns is the growing linkage between drug trafficking and gun running from Pakistan during the last 2 or 3 months. The Border Security Force seized two consignments in Punjab of heroin, hashish, and arms together in the same lot.

A significant development is that the followup action in such cases is being taken on the Pakistan side also, besides a greater exchange of operational information between the two countries.

In Pakistan there are 10 different government agencies competent to seize contraband and arrest the smugglers. Last year they seized 2,780 kg of heroin, 14,792 kg of charas, 53,307 kg of ganja, and 1,005 kg of mandrax.

This is nearly 4 times the amount of heroin seized about 2 years ago in 1985. However, perhaps the biggest problem in Pakistan is the capability of the illegal traders in quickly resettling their heroin factories which seem to bring to naught the government efforts to eradicate them.

For instance, it is understood that at least a dozen new heroin manufacturing units have come up in the (Chagai) Hill areas in Baluchistan during the last 2 or 3 months and their entire product appears to be going across Iran and Turkey to Europe.

Earlier also, no sooner than the heroin factories were removed in the Frontier Province, they were set up across the border in Afghanistan. According to the chairman of the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, Pakistan's problem with India is the smuggling of drugs used in manufacture of mandrax tables as well as alcohol, the later being strictly forbidden in Pakistan.

The second meeting of the India-Pakistan committee to combat drug trafficking and smuggling reviewed the cooperative efforts between concerned agencies and agreed to step up such efforts in order to curb their activities. Such cooperation seems to augur well for the future.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD291333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] We shall begin our bulletin's news reports with remarks made by the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council in today's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran. In the Friday sermons Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the international labor day and hailed the contribution of our country's workers. He said: Much has been done in the Islamic Republic for workers' rights. The latest such measure is the labor law, which has been ratified by the Majlis and will be promulgated with some amendments.

The Majlis speaker later referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of (Attar) Ayatollah Sadiqi and the martyr Professor Ayatollah Motahhari. He hailed their great services to Islam and the Iranian Islamic Revolution. He called upon those in charge to preserve the valuable works of Prof Motahhari—which will be needed by the youth of the society—and to make them widely available to the people and the youth. Then, in connection with teachers day, the Majlis speaker said: There is no position more sacred than that of the teacher. Our teachers are now among the best elements of society, and they are tolerant. Since the revolution we have been unable to look after them and their living conditions. Their salaries are among the lowest, and they have a very difficult job to do. God willing, and given the availability of resources, society will do its duty towards them in the future.

Continuing his sermons, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council turned to regional issues and said: A fact that we have observed before and since the revolution is that global godlessness is terrified of Islam and the Muslims and it is trying to crush them. This is because, for the first time in history, a powerful Islamic movement with unprecedented leadership and backing has emerged. This has thrown all its enemies into a state of confusion. From the outset, their intention was to crush the movement.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: Since the middle of last year, when the revolution's leadership and those in charge felt there should be a new initiative at the battle front, and when the Supreme War Support Council called upon the people to mobilize and march to the fronts and provide material and physical support for striking the enemy, we suddenly observed an intense reaction on the part of global arrogance. Since the people's movement and the hezbollahi people's response to the call of the country's officials, one can see global arrogance's new moves both in the Persian Gulf and in terms of the renewed strengthening of the 'Aflaqis of Iraq. The crystallization of all this can be seen in the large number of missiles and the large arsenal of chemical weapons which they have recently placed at Saddam Husayn's disposal. In light of their moves in the UN and the Security Council, and their efforts to impose an arms embargo, put pressure on our purchasing resources and on our economic oil resources, the combination of all this demonstrates that an extensive plan has been devised against us and that the East, the West, Israel, and the reactionaries are all involved. The situation has reached the point where they have come out of the woodwork, and the superpowers are officially ranged against us.

All this demonstrates their fear. All this is taking place at a time when the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive is being carried out, and several successful operations have been carried out by the combatants of Islam in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. All this shows the degree to which global godlessness is sensitive to the Islamic Revolution.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: What the UN did recently was quite amazing. In the Halabjah incident, most of international media and doctors confirmed that Saddam had used chemical bombs, that he had committed massacres, crimes, and genocide. The most prominent UN official, who sent an expert there, after 40 days said in his report to the Security Council that chemical materials had been used at Halabjah and that both Iranian and Iraqi people

were affected and had suffered. In this way they demolish their credibility with one stroke. How could an international organization ignore all the facts? How can it keep its self-respect?

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The United States was thoroughly disgraced by what it did in the Persian Gulf. It is no honor for the United States with all its resources to hit one or two of our ships, to lose one naval craft and one supply ship within a few days, to have one of its helicopters downed, to be afraid even to announce the number of its personnel injured, to be unable even to safeguard its own security despite its claim that it had come to protect the security of the Persian Gulf, despite hundreds of millions of dollars spent, despite all that propaganda. This is a disgrace for the United States.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Now that it is trying to get ships through under an air umbrella 1 week later, it is forced out of fear to light up the whole surrounding area with large number of shells as it passes close to an Iranian island.

The most impudent of all of them is the Saudi king, who all of a sudden in the midst of the U.S. war against us severed relations with us and banned our pilgrims from going to Mecca. They have all joined hands to prevent the Islamic revolution from succeding. Our duty, in these circumstances—to continue the revolution, rebuff those who want to harness the revoution, and smash the alleged might of those who have done anything they have wanted anywhere in the world, and who have for the first time ever been rebuffed in Iran—is to maintain our resistance and to demonstrate that Islam is more powerful than all of them.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani later turned to the United States' ignominy in the course of its demonstrations in the Persian Gulf and said: Those whose mission was to bring about security have destroyed security. Those whose mission was to blast Islam came here and strengthened Islam. Along with the hearts of all the people across the world, we shall continue along the sacred path we have chosen. We are confident of our victory and success based on divine promises.

Political Roundtable Discussion on Recent Events

NC2804185388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1620 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Political roundtable discussion with Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs; and 'Abbas Maleki, research director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; moderated by Afshar, correspondent of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] Esteemed brothers and sisters, salutations. I pray for the acceptance of your worship and supplications in this auspicious month of Ramadan. We are here with you with our regular political roundtable feature. Allow me to introduce our roundtable guests to you, dear compatriots. They are our brother Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, the deputy foreign minister for the Americas and European countries [title as heard], and Mr 'Abbas Maleki, the director general of the Bureau for Political and International Research [title as heard]. We shall content ourselves with this brief introduction and begin tonight's program, dear viewers.

Mr Larijani, in the past month or two we have witnessed a series of political and military coincidences in the region. These events began with the issue of the arms embargo proposed by the Americans. This was eclipsed by the chemical bombing of Halabjah. Then came the war of the cities and the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, followed by the combined attack on Al-Faw by the United States, the Iraqi regime, and the Kuwaiti regime. In recent days these events have culminated in Saudi Arabia's severing diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. I think the people will be very interested in hearing your comprehensive analysis of these events.

[Larijani] May God save us from the accursed devil. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you mentioned, these events certainly have a hidden connection. About 9 months ago or, rather, 1 year ago, when rumors of UN Resolution No 598 were being heard, we saw very clearly that it obviously was not a question of establishing peace and security in the region. It was in fact an extensive plot by all the oppressive countries and infidel governments, whose interests were endangered, to unite against the Islamic Republic of Iran and adopt a (?threatening) stance and a combined multilateral course.

Therefore, the strategy of the Islamic Republic had to be formulated according to various requirements. On the international scene, in view of the aggression committed, it became certain that the objectives they were seeking could not be obtained from this resolution; that is, the resolution could not in any way become a means of support for aggression and the aggressor. On the military scene, our successes, and in particular the conquest of Halabjah, brought about a change in previous calculations on the international level. U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf, on the other hand, are of such a kind that despite the presence of an independent system, a sovereign revolution in the region like the Islamic Revolution, there must be aggression; that is, the difficulties arise from the nature of these interests, whether they concern hegemony, plunder, or the aggressive tendencies of the government itself. In my view, the Americans as well as the Soviets were gripped by intense anxiety about the future of the Iraqi regime. A Western leader said during some of the talks that the Iraqi regime has no chance of survival, whether in peace or in war. It has absolutely no chance of surviving either the one or the other.

This is due to the situation in which the regime finds itself at present. It is for this reason that the United States had to make special efforts and preparations. If we ask what was the aim of these preparations, we should say that, first, it is to prevent the Saddam regime's defeat and, second, to take revenge on our revolution. That means the United States wishes to take its revenge on the Islamic Revolution. Some of the actions cannot be explained in any other way. They cannot be justified on the grounds that the interests of the Western countries are at stake as some Western interests are opposed to what the United States is doing in the region.

The other objective they are pursuing in the region is to quell the fire of the revolution. The Islamic Revolution is a phenomenon which is not confined to geographical or regional limits. It sees the whole world as its area of proliferation and activity. There is also another reason. The oppressive governments want a revolution to be wise and adopt an attitude of wisdom toward the aggressor. In other words, it should be open to forcible subjugation.

For the aforementioned reasons, we should review our obligations; that is, we should understand the meaning of our resistance. Our resistance is not a question of simple military victory. It is resistance to aggression, to domination in the region, and to revenge against our revolution. In short, given the implications of the latest events in the region, our resistance takes on wide international scope.

[Afshar] Dr Larijani, in your remarks you referred to the events of the past 9 months, starting with UN Resolution No 598. The UN secretary general announced that the United States, with its attacks on two oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, violated Article 5 of Resolution No 598. In view of the fact that it is one of the UN Security Council members countries that voted in favor of the resolution, is the United States, in your view, not liable to some sort of legal action in this regard?

[Larijani] With regard to the United States, it is very difficult to talk of rights, legal acation, or law. Resolution No 598 was one of the most unfortunate international resolutions. There are weaknesses in the resolution itself and contradictions. There is also the question of the fate of the revolution. The countries which claimed to support the (?implementation) of the resolution (?flouted) it. According to Article 5 of the resolution, no country other than Iran and Iraq, the belligerents, has the right to take any action that may exacerbate tension in the region. This is very clear.

Of course, we had this clause included in the resolution because it was obvious at the time that Iraq wished to expand the war to other countries. It was one of the stated policies of Iraq to spread the war. The United States, which allegedly supports this resolution and is constantly flaunting it, like all other countries, violated Article 5 from the day it was adopted, and trampled it underfoot. The ink on the resolution had not yet dried when the Americans deployed their massive naval forces in the Persian Gulf. This is a blatant violation of the letter as well as the spirit of the resolution. In my opinion, it was clear from the first day that no one is interested in the resolution. They want to use it as a stepping stone to a massive political onslaught against the Islamic Republic, justifying their military aggression. We should say that in this regard they face total defeat.

[Afshar] I thank you very much. Mr Maleki, regarding the issue of the Persian Gulf, it is said that this maritime region forms an exclusive zone, and laws governing such waters apply to this maritime region. As an official of the Political Research Bureau, could you tell our viewers what an exclusive zone is and what laws apply to it? If the Persian Gulf is an exclusive zone, does the United States or any other foreign country have the right to ply in the Persian Gulf region?

[Maleki] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The conditions applying to exclusive or semi-exclusive waters or both goes back to the Law of the Sea Convention of 1982. Prior to that, laws governing seas and oceans, including the convention of 1958, were formulated in such a way that the littoral states reaped a greater benefit than the countries on the shores of free but smaller seas. Following detailed talks among the legal experts of the various countries in 1982, a convention was approved. According to Article 122 of this convention, countries on the shores of exclusive or semi-exclusive seas were authorized to cooperate with one another in matters of environmental protection, the use of foam on the surface of the water with the [word indistinct], and in matters affecting the safety of navigation, as well as in the implementation of the appropriate measures.

Thus, the Persian Gulf can be considered as a semi-exclusive zone; that is, beyond the 12 nautical miles of the littoral states' territorial waters, the area considered free can be part of a semi-exclusive zone. Other discussions were also held, as a result of which it was stated that 200 nautical miles beyond the limits of territorial waters, all countries are permitted to use the waters if they are part of the semi-enclusive zone. They may also enjoy freedom of navigation and may ensure that the environment is not endangered.

There is a particular feature regarding the Persian Gulf, and it is that if we cross these 200 miles, the interests of some of the countries clash. This should be (?resolved) or restricted by the countries concerned. On the question of whether someone can enter the Strait of Hormuz without the permission of the littoral states, this has been the subject of much discussion but no decision has been reached so far. However, many countries have affirmed this and do not accept the fact that the United States has the right to check other vessels or even to be present at all in the region.

[Afshar] Mr Maleki, it appears that an extensive campaign has been initiated to minimize the importance of this region and to depict it as one of the less important regions of the world. In your opinion, is this being done deliberately or has the importance of the region really dwindled?

[Maleki] I think the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf is no secret to anyone. Perhaps in olden times, this region was inhabited by various communities, perhaps it has seen clashes between the warships and forces of great powers. It was also the scene of the rise of various civilizations, the last of which was Islamic culture and civilization.

A particularly interesting aspect is that the fact that Islamic culture and civilization is now Iranian indicates the region is important in itself and has always been so. However, after 1971, the departure of the British from this region and from east of Suez, the rise in oil prices, and the enormous income from oil which accrued to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf increased the area's importance.

Lately, in view of this potential [preceding word in English] which I mentioned—that is, the Iranian Islamic culture, or the Islamic Revolution and the accompanying moral influence, the great powers are taking the view that this region's previous importance should be minimized. What they did first was to initiate the Iran-Iraq war which was, in a way, to repress all the possibilities and new trends of thought emerging in the Middle East region. The second factor was the effort to sow discord among the various countries and nations of the region. For example, the Iranians should not be on friendly terms with the Arab countries of the littoral countries in the southern Persian Gulf; that is, they should not have any mutual exchanges of views and opinions.

The third factor is economic. For example, the attempt to minimize the importance of the region was largely economic. In 1987, 60 percent of the world's oil passed through the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz region. Now, if we wish to make a comparison, about 30 to 35 percent passes through the region. In 1987, approximately 80 vessels used the Strait of Hormuz daily. Now the number has dropped to 18 or less. The pipelines to be built between Iraq and Saudi Arabia via Kuwait to the Mediterranean countries or to pass over Turkish soil, all show that attempts are being made to detract from the strategic importance of this region. It may be said this is an attempt to reduce economic investment in this region by the Western countries.

I have some statistics here. For example, in 1980, Saudi Arabia had an oil income of $108 billion. In 1986 this dropped to $21 billion. Kuwait's income was reduced from $18 billion to $6 billion, and the UAE's income fell from $19 billion to $5 billion. This is because from the economic point of view the region could not stand on its own feet and I believe the brunt of this attack is directed at Iran, the Islamic Republic. The West, particularly the United States, has been mobilized to break Iran's power, but the long-term plan of the superpowers is, in general terms, to prevent the region and its inhabitants from having that kind of economic and cultural growth that would enable them to acquire self-sufficiency and potential [preceding word in English] in the world. They invested in this cause and probably have not been successful except in the economic field. God willing, they will not be successful in the future either.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Dr Larijani, according to the UN Charter, every country should request the vindication of its rights in relation to another country through the Security Council, prior to committing aggression against that country. If it does not attain its rights through the Security Council however, it can take so-called military action. In view of this, and the fact that the latest U.S. action in the Persian Gulf, in which Iranian civilian oil platforms were attacked, was carried out without taking the matter to the Security Council, is this U.S. action liable to prosecution in accordance with international law? If it is, has any such step been taken so far?

[Larijani] As you have mentioned, if anyone wishes to follow international regulations, he should inform the Security Council through the secretary general before taking any military action. What the United States has done falls short of this in two ways. One is that no information was proffered, although they claimed that they had done so, but the UN secretary general denied this and said that no such information had been made available until after the attack. The other makes their allegations appear most ludicrous. They claimed they attacked two Iranian oil platforms in self-defense. This claim is fallacious from two aspects. First, how can an attack on a civilian oil platform be considered an act of military defense? This is an example of pure terrorism. In the United Nations General Assembly we have two definitions of terrorist acts. A terrorist act is a military action against civilian targets in order to achieve political objectives. What the United States has done is a clear example of a terrorist act.

It is an act of self-defense only when a party is under attack itself. The other point which has attracted the attention of the international press is that the U.S. response came a few days after their warship hit a mine. If theirs was an act of self-defense, it should have taken place immediately, not a few days later. If several days elapse, then, under the UN Charter and its Article 501, they should not act independently. They should file a complaint with the Security Council, and the Security Council should take action. They do not have the right to act at any stage. The only stage at which they can act is during the actual act of aggression, as was the case with us; that is, when Iraq attacked us, we did not pause before responding to it. According to Article 501 of the UN Charter, we were permitted to defend ourselves immediately. However, the United States acted 4 days

after claiming to have received a military blow. This is in itself a violation of the UN Charter. Now there is another general discrepancy in the matter. A U.S. warship hits a mine. Who planted the mine and when? Did explosion aboard the vessel result from the mine or not? How is it that the United States may judge the crime, decide on the scope of punishment to be meted out, and then carry out the punishement as well? This is an unprecedented and fallacious international situation.

Of course, in reply it may be said that the need to abide by international norms does not seem to apply to the United States. Those who profess to adhere to international norms are the first to violate them. Their logic is the logic of force. Hence it is foolish to expect the United States to respond on the basis of international laws. We will of course capitalize on this weak point on the international level and we have done so quite overtly. The United States is not a country to feel shame in such a situation. They believe in the rhetoric of force.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr Maleki, several countries and the international community have made various proposals for the security of the Persian Gulf. One of these proposals was made by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our people are fully aware of it in general. Could you tell us the details of the Iranian proposals for the security of the Persian Gulf?

[Maleki] The security of the Persian Gulf is a subject of much discussion at present, in newspapers, press, seminars, conferences, and international organizations. Proposals made last year on the topic of the security of the Persian Gulf region and the doctrine in this regard were disseminated in the Foreign Ministry and in the Bureau for Political Research. The salient points were conveyed by our foreign minister to Mr Perez de Cuellar. Our esteemed president also referred to these on one or two occasions. As you said, the people are aware of the highlights. I will give some details, however. The proposal contains four points:

First, that the safeguarding of the security of the region is the concern of the governments of the region; that is, the entry of all foreign forces in this region is to be condemned and is not at all necessary. We are capable of safeguarding security through talks with other countries, even if the talks are lengthy and if our good intentions are not initially acknowledged. It does not matter. We must continue our course of action.

The second point is the unconditional departure of all foreign forces; that is, the departure of the warships of the big countries.

Third, international borders and the inviolability of these borders must be respected, and the countries of the region must refrain from aggression against one another. This is also one of our proposals. The present borders that exist among countries in the region and are accepted should be respected and all differences should be referred to an authoritative body.

Fourth, mutual cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific, and other fields should expand among the countries of the region. We feel that within this framework we can establish peace and security in this region so that the people of the region may thus be able to enjoy the bounty and resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They should not squander their resources by purchasing needless arms, by laying too many pipelines, and by other acts discussed earlier.

[Larijani] If you permit me, I would like to present a clarification on our policy.

[Afshar] Please go ahead.

[Larijani] For purposes of maintaining security in a region, there are two methods being used in the world. One is the theory of the regional gendarme. If a city is to be safe, it needs gendarmes and police; similarly, when you want a region comprising several countries to be safe, one country has to act as the gendarme. Perhaps there is one among them who can perform this duty; otherwise, the gendarme must come from abroad. This American theory has been implemented for nearly 30 years so far with respect to the security of the Persian Gulf. On principle, whenever the question of the security of a region arises, the United States tries to follow the theory of the gendarme.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, follows another doctrine. This is the doctrine of balance, or equilibrium which says that an area is secure when it has attained equilibrium in balancing countries of the world. Either the area is completely under the influence of one of the powers and its equilibrium is zero or, if two countries or more have bases in that region, there should be some sort of parity among them. The West and the United States are in the Persian Gulf; the Soviet Union also believes that it should have a parallel presence in the Persian Gulf and should be able to come into the region with security, for its own aims. Therefore, as you see, the Soviet Union always raises the slogan of the security of a region to enable it to enter the region.

The Islamic Republic has proposed a different doctrine. This is the doctrine of regional security for the Persian Gulf. The gendarme theory and the doctrine of equilibrium results in the introduction of arms. If either theory prevails, countries have to buy arms. However, the Islamic Republic's doctrine is essentially one of disarmament. The Islamic Republic's proposals date back to the period before the heads of the seven major industrial nations met in Venice, when Engineer Musavi sent a message to the Belgian and FRG prime ministers explaining this idea. It was when the United States was about to urge other countries at the session to come into the Persian Gulf.

This idea was explained in detail in the message concerned, and it was stated that for real security our doctrine was the best guarantee. We should say that Mr Musavi's message at the Venice session was one of the major factors in defeating American plans. Other Western countries do not pursue the same interests in the Persian Gulf as the United States. What they want is to have access to the oil of the region and to the markets of the Persian Gulf. Neither of these aims conflicts with the Iranian stance, because we produce and sell oil and we also have extensive commercial ties with the West. Hence, Westerners and many Western governments do not believe their interests conflict with our views. U.S. interests and policies, however, subject them to pressure.

Therefore, the message Mr Musavi delivered to these Western countries prior to the Venice session provided a general picture. Later it was given to the ICO and the United Nations, and our esteemed Foreign Minister Velayati explained it at numerous sessions and discussions with regional countries. It is interesting that a considerable number of the regional countries are themselves pursuing this idea. It safeguards their interests and this is the strong point of the plan. The only opponent of this plan is the United States, which is very apprehensive. In practice, it has been trying to hinder the implementation of this plan.

[Afshar] Dr Larijani, in your remarks you referred to the theory of the Soviets, the so-called doctrine of equilibrium. When the Americans attacked the Reshadat oil platform, the Soviets reacted strongly to this action. Now when the Americans attacked our oil platforms with a greater intensity, the Soviet reaction was less forceful than the earlier one. How do you assess this in light of the doctrine of equilibrium that you mentioned?

[Larijani] In my opinion, the Soviet reaction on both occasions was rather tepid and passive. The Soviet policy regarding the United States generally appears to be rather passive. Perhaps this is due to the Soviet Union's economic weakness, its industrial problems, or social difficulties. All these factors should be taken into account. Even on the first occasion, the Soviet reaction was not one of serious resistance. It is only the Islamic Republic of Iran which has steadfastly resisted U.S. actions.

When the United States indulges in military aggression, it is ridiculous to content oneself with a statement or communique as a means of counteracting it. Serious action must be taken. U.S. actions are detrimental to Iran and to the region, and thus are also a danger to Soviet security. As you see, as a result of U.S. efforts, Saudi Arabia gained access to long-range missiles. The world knows that missile attacks on Tehran do not affect Iran's strength at all. Iran has an innate strength based on the strong resolve of the people. Missiles which may damage a few houses cannot cause our resolve to falter. The missiles given to Saudi Arabia have a range of 1,200 km and can reach Soviet territory. This means that the Soviet Union has been duped badly as well.

The United States lost its ability to keep a rein on the Soviet Union through Iran and the belt which was broken by the Islamic Revolution can now be tied a little lower. Now Turkey is a NATO member and Iraq is daily leaning toward the United States. The littoral states of the southern Persian Gulf and the rest are doing likewise. As you see, in the face of this serious threat to its security, the Soviet Union had no reaction. This is a general languor which characterizes Soviet policy in the world.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr Maleki, it is being suggested that in order to ensure security in the Persian Gulf, foreign warships should depart from the region and should be replaced by international peace-keeping forces. How do you view this proposal?

[Maleki] I think that a UN peace-keeping force, on principle, would have to be under the command and supervision of a military headquarters committee affiliated with the Security Council, and should act in accordance with its instructions. This committee has a budget to which the Soviet Union had some debts, which it paid last year. On the other hand, the Soviet leaders are the protagonists of this proposal. I find it rather ambiguous. What kind of forces would comprise a UN force in the Persian Gulf and how would it act? Would it be concerned with the safety of shipping, or with the opposite, with preventing a country from exercising its legitimate rights? None of this is clear.

However, if we glance at the past record of UN peace-keeping forces, they have not, to my knowledge, ever entered the arena—particularly naval forces. They have been of a mixed nature, or mostly consisting of ground forces, as for example in Korea, between occupied Palestine and Egypt, and in Lebanon. In those cases, the UN forces have mostly been under U.S. command, as in Korea, or have been unable to do anything. Indeed, they have also become embroiled in clashes. For example, the departure of the UN forces from the Sinai resulted in a 6-day war in [words indistinct] in the Gaza Strip, a 6-day war in 1967, and the events in Lebanon. In my opinion, the presence of foreign warships may have the same effect and this would not be anything new.

As regards countries' contributing troops and commanders to the UN force, it is obvious that they will have to come from among the permanent members of the Security Council. The United States is still one of the adversaries and these forces will have to come and station themselves between the U.S. forces and those of other countries. How would American forces under the UN aegis come between American forces and those of other countries? How could American forces intervene between American forces and those of another country?

Another anomaly which we should study more closely is the fact that the West does not pay much attention to UN peace-keeping forces, even though they are talked about in the media. It is mostly the East which insists on doing this.

[Afshar] Dr Larijani, the Iranian envoy to the United Nations said in an interview recently that the latest U.S. action in the Persian Gulf had hampered the political efforts exerted to end the war. Does this remark by our UN envoy refer to a lull in political activity?

[Larijani] Obviously, it has hampered the UN secretary general's efforts. If the UN secretary general wishes to see justice done, there must be at least some assistance given to the process to avoid fresh aggression. Our doubts about the Security Council's ability to see that justice is done have increased. If the Security Council wishes to halt aggression, that is, Iraq's aggression against Iran, how will it tackle the aggression that took place a few days ago? Can it be indifferent to it? In our opinion, what the United States has done is both a blatant insult to the international system and a blow to Resolution No 598, particularly Article 5. It was an act which definitely affected and retarded the UN secretary general's efforts to implement justice and bring about a fair and durable peace in the region.

[Afshar] Dr Larijani, after some delay, the report of the team of UN experts on the Iraqi use of chemical weapons was disseminated. The report did not condemn Iraq openly and did not name it. In view of the fact that Iran provided the team with logical evidence of Iraq's extensive use of chemical weapons and in view of the fact that the UN secretary general had condemned Iraq for its use of chemical weapons in Halabjah, why did the UN team not condemn Iraq openly? Why does Iraq use chemical weapons whenever it realizes how weak it is against our fighters? It could be said that the Iraqi regime has become addicted to the use of chemical weapons. In the Second World War both sides had chemical weapons but did not use them for fear that the other side might retaliate. As the international community does not condemn Iraq, nor does Iraq refrain from the use of these weapons, do you not consider it appropriate that our forces should also use chemical weapons in retaliation?

[Larijani] Regarding the first matter, I would say the team that was sent to the area by the United Nations and that presented a report seems itself to be part of the plot under which it was dispatched. The crime committed was one of the rare crimes in history. In Halabjah, Iraq committed a massacre through the use of chemical weapons of a special kind. However, the UN team, as we saw, consisted of a group of doctors. There were no military experts, no political experts, no toxicologists. All these should have been present and should have inspected the region at close quarters. In addition, they said Halabjah is part of Iraq; you have taken it and we cannot go there. This is not the proper thing to say. They sent the wrong kind of team to Tehran and in addition, they did not even visit the scene of the massive crime.

At the very outset, we wrote an official letter to the UN secretary general about all these shortcomings. We stated that this delegation should only visit the hospitals and see the border areas. Well, you saw the hospitals where only a fraction of the results of the crime are to be seen. The actual crime took place in Halabjah.

However, the team said in its report that in Iranian hospitals there were many victims, including women, children, and civilians, affected by chemical weapons. The report clearly shows Iraq committed this crime. However, as they were doctors, they only wrote about their observations.

On the whole, this report is merely an endorsement of what had been stated earlier and reported throughout the world. It is a very defective report and we have told the UN secretary general at least three times that a complete delegation should come, ever since we were told that a delegation was on its way to Iran. The fact that they did not mention Iraq is another sign of weakness. The reporter says I am only a doctor and I only saw the border areas, but political individuals investigating such matters would report more clearly.

Today the world is confronting a difficult phenomenon which is not confined to Iran and Iraq. If the use of chemical weapons becomes common, no country will be safe. Lackeys and people of a regime like Iraq which does not have any qualms about killing 5,000 of its own people would plant such weapons in every airport, supermarket, and bazaar throughout the world. Terrorists of such regimes would use chemical bombs everywhere in the future. If this becomes common, people throughout the world, even in Europe and the United States, will have to take gas masks everywhere they go.

It seems rather strange that all are silent in the face of an act that has endangered the safety of the whole world. Of course, the Iraqi use of chemical weapons in Halabjah is an example of genocide. This is when a convention exists for the punishment of those who are responsible for a massacre. It is interesting that even with the presence of all these rules and regulations in the world, there is no one to enforce justice. Iraq should not only be taken to task for using chemical weapons but also for perpetrating a massacre which should be investigated by UN representatives. Even though the news was disseminated all over the world and documentary evidence of the crime was seen by all, they should come and investigate the crime. Since World War II there has been no such case of genocide.

As for how to prevent the Iraqi regime from using chemical weapons, it may be said that Iraq believes in the language of force and is an illogical regime. It should be prevented from such acts by force. If this force were

exerted by the political powers of the world and by international machinery, we would prefer it. Those who have influence in Iraq, those whom Iraq is forced to obey, those who gave Iraq arms and are party to its crimes should make some decisions in this regard. First, they should warn Iraq to refrain from such acts and second, they should stop providing chemical materials to Iraq. Obviously, Iraq cannot produce it by itself.

They should halt export of every kind of material that could be used in chemical weapons for Iraq and should impose an international boycott. If this is done it will be effective and we will be very happy that without our forces' using chemical weapons this has been done. However, if this not done, and it appears that only few countries of the world are making efforts in this connection, then we will be forced to use military means to prevent Iraq from pursuing this course.

Of course, when I say military means I am not implying that the only solution is to use chemical weapons. We have other military methods that will make Iraq pay a heavy price for its use of chemical weapons. Iraq attacked our cities, and lost Halabjah and an area of territory which is greater than the whole of Lebanon. Was an attack on our cities worth this loss? We will use various methods to bring home to Iraq that the use of chemical weapons will result in losses for which it will pay a heavy price. We are forced to do so. Naturally, we will use all the resources at our disposal and Iraq will be made to regret it. There will be regret on the international level as well. We have recorded this today in the world. It will be recorded in history as well when it is seen that a country spoke sincerely, awaited results, and made sacrifices, but the world governments were too blinded by their greed to do anything and the country attained its rights courageously. God willing, these victories and our power and dedication to the truth will be recorded for posterity.

[Afshar] Mr Maleki, the Bureau for Political Research has undertaken extensive research on the Persian Gulf and the region. As our people are aware through the press, a bureau is to hold a seminar on the problems of the Persian Gulf. Could you give our viewers some information on the activities of the bureau and the objectives of the seminar?

[Maleki] It may be said that the Islamic Republic's supremacy in the Persian Gulf, the implications of this, and the Islamic Republic's rights have been the subject of much research work, as yet incomplete. Many of our interests are still unidentified. The kind of cooperation that we can have with other countries in the region and the political or economic utilization of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in general appeared to us a suitable subject for a seminar to aid the government on the Persian Gulf problem. After consultations with well-informed persons we divided the seminar into two sections. One section will be concerned with internal matters, with Iranian participants only, who will speak and deliver papers. Then there will be an international seminar.

[Afshar] If you will allow me, I will ask the last question of the program. Recently you had talks with the UN secretary general and it was decided that a fresh proposal be presented to him. Please give our viewers some details on your talks and the plan.

[Larijani] This is the second official round of talks, or the fourth round of talks held around the axis of Resolution No 598. It would not be improper if I mentioned the position of this resolution in the beginning and the reason for the present strategy of the Islamic Republic. The implementation of Resolution No 598, when it was approved, did not appear to be the objective of the United States and some other countries in the Security Council.

A president of a European country said to me in one of our discussions that when the resolution was adopted it was decided that within 2 weeks a resolution would be passed reprimanding Iran for its nonacceptance, followed by a resolution 2 weeks after that, implementing an arms embargo for preventing the implementation of Resolution No 598. Therefore, from the beginning Resolution No 598 was to be used as a prelude for international pressure on the Islamic Republic.

The other point is that the Iraqi regime carried out aggressive acts against us on the international level, not only militarily but also politically. This regime pretended to be the flagbearer of peace, while there is no other country more dedicated to peace than we are. Whatever peace proposal was suggested was proposed on behalf of Iraq. As we were rather disappointed by international organizations and had many difficulties at the beginning of the war in carrying on our defense, we did not pay much attention to this. Thus, Iraq was the aggressor and on the international level it posed as the flagbearer of international debates on peace and security in the region.

In light of these factors, we observed that if peace has any protagonist it is us alone. Furthermore, we must destroy this American plot. This is how our strategy on Resolution No 598 began. We said that this resolution, in view of its positive points, has potential, and that if a proper plan for its implementation is formulated, we agree to it. In view of its negative points it is possible it may be transformed into a plot against us. Hence, we will not give an affirmative or negative answer to the resolution. The UN secretary general came to Tehran and presented us with a plan for its implementation. This plan consisted of three parts. The Iraqi regime should be declared the aggressor and the initiator of the war. Then a

cease-fire would be implemented and a committee set up to assess the aggression and the violations committed by Saddam, and to specify what should be done in return for each of these acts.

These are the three fundamental parts of the UN secretary general's plan. In Tehran he was told that we agree to this plan. He then changed it and tried to pursue it in the altered form. When he left Tehran, 2 months passed before he was even permitted to pursue his plans. It became obvious that those who wished to use the resolution as a weapon against Iran were unhappy with the turn of events. In our latest talks, the UN secretary general mentioned the U.S. and Iraqi objections. For example, he said the United States and Iraq want Iran to give a definite yes or no. It is impossible not to give either. We replied that these remarks are illegal. You are of the opinion that it is necessary to implement Resolution No 598. If this is so, it does not need any acceptance announcement. It only needs cooperation with the implementation plan, which we are doing. It is as if this is a crime of murder for which there is a punishment. A murderer may come and say that he likes the law but commits the crime repeatedly. A competent legal expert may oppose the law but will not commit a murder.

If you believe that it is necessary to implement the resolution then an announcement of its acceptance is (?superfluous). If it is so necessary to implement it why are you so insistent? It is not important whether we accept it or not. We consider these remarks an important legal obstacle. For example, another objection is that Iran is adopting delaying tactics to play for time. Why should we do this? In order to avoid an arms embargo, they said. We asked if an arms embargo is the main objective of the resolution. You say that the resolution's aim is to ensure security, peace, justice, and such things. Obviously, the opposite is true. It is clear that those who raised objections, such as the United States, France, Iraq, and some other countries were ashamed themselves, as their words have no credibility on the international level.

We then got to the crux of the matter. We said in Tehran you agreed to the three points in the plan I mentioned earlier. Why did you not implement those? Why are you losing an opportunity? We do not have any objections to the fact that the Iraqi aggressor regime should not be given an award. We will not permit an award to be given to this regime but we are insistent on the implementation of justice and if you do not do so, we will follow it up. One day it is possible you will approach us for the same agreement that we reached in Tehran, but it will be too late. The plan we proposed and was approved by the UN secretary general was within the mechanism of the progress of the talks.

We said it is meaningless if we come and hold talks each time and one person raises an objection and we have to answer it. This is a waste of time. We do not have the time to see which country is raising objections. Is the United Nations the center for hearing objections? Therefore, we said a plan for the mechanism of progress in the talks should be adopted, as we had suggested. We said a timetable should be drawn up for all the clauses of the resolution. Priority should be accorded on the basis of justice, not on the basis of an escape from justice. Iraq wants to escape justice; this cannot be the basis for the timetable. Therefore, first the framework for talks must be prepared, then a timetable must be drawn up, and, third, a working group should be set up to work directly and continuously with the UN Secretariat in New York. Preliminaries for the talks with both sides should be prepared. In this manner we will know which issue should be tackled first, and we can exchange the broader issues with the more specialized ones. The ideas we stated there were, first, the removal of all ambiguities; second the elaboration of our stance; and third, the presentation of a practical plan for talks.

[Afshar] I thank you, Dr Larijani, for partcipating in the political roundtable, and you too, Dr Maleki.

Dear viewers, with prayers for the acceptance of your worship and supplications in this auspicious month of Ramadan and the final victories of the infidel-battling Islamic fighters, I say goodbye on behalf of our brothers Dr Larijani and Mr Maleki, who participated in this roundtable. May God bless each one of you. Good night.

IRGC Forces Attack Convoy Smuggling Narcotics

LD291153 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, in continuation of the steadfast and relentless fight against narcotics smugglers, the IRGC of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Kerman Province, in a coordinated and planned operation with the cooperation of special battalions of the Abu Zar and Meqdad Headquarters, succeeded in routing one of the biggest and best equipped convoys smuggling narcotics, a convoy linked with and guided by armed international narcotics smugglers and bandits. In this operation more than 10 of the most experienced narcotics smugglers were killed and several others wounded.

On the basis of this report, the convoy attracted attention because it was armed with antiaircraft weapons, advanced offensive missiles, and wirelesses and semiheavy missiles. These armaments demonstrate that global arrogance has invested heavily in plans to distribute narcotics in our country.

Martyr's Foundation Warns Saudis Over Hajj

LD281213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation has issued a message in which it states that the decision by the Hijaz regime to prevent Iranian pilgrims from going to the holy

house of God to perform the hajj ceremonies is grossly impudent and contrary to the Koran. Part of the message by the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation reference referred to the crime of the House of Al Sa'ud in instigating the bloody Mecca tragedy last 7 August and in dragging in blood and dust more than 400 pilgrims to the house of God.

It states: The regime ruling over the Hijaz which, by carrying out this great conspiracy, has clearly demonstrated its incompetence in administering the sacred shrines, has now embarked on another act of impudence and intends to prevent Iranian pilgrims—these true offspring of the last of the prophets of Islam, may God's peace and benedictions be upon him—from participating in the hajj. The Al Sa'ud house should know that the support given to them by world arrogance, spearheaded by the criminal United States and using Zionist media with the investments of the oppressed and Muslim people of Hijaz, will never be able to prevent Muslim nations all over the world from becoming aware of these conspiracies, which explicitly contravene Koranic edicts.

The wave of opposition against the rulers of the Hijaz that arose among Muslims after the bloody tragedy of 7 August becomes more extensive each day. The Hijaz regime has placed itself in an impossible position. It will not be long before the sacred shrines will be freed from the blood-dripping claws of the corrupt and dependent shaykhs, and Mecca and Al-Madinah will become centers from which the oppression, crime, and the plunder of the Muslim ummah and the deprived of the world by tyrannical and usurper powers will be eliminated.

Islamic Organization Criticizes Saudi Move

LD282006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula [sazeman-e enqlab-e eslami-ye jazirat al-arab] today issued a statement condemning the action of the Hijaz regime in severing diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It stated: The nation of the Arabian Peninsula regards itself as an integral part of the Islamic ummah, of whom the Iranian Muslim and revolutionary nation is the standard-bearer.

The statement also said: The measure adopted by the rulers of the House of Al Sa'ud is in reality a true reflection of America's position in the region.

The statement described the measure adopted by the Hijaz rulers as stemming from their weakness and defeat in the face of the position of Islamic Iran with regard to the hajj issue.

Commentary Decries Saudi 'Subservience' to U.S.

LD281340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 28 apr 88

[Station commentary: "The Saudi Regime's Decision To Sever Ties With Iran, a Further Sign of Its Subservience to Reactionaries"]

[Text] Following the announcement of the Al Sa'ud regime's decision to sever political relations with the Islamic Republic, the White House yesterday announced Washington's decision to sell $825 million worth of weapons and military services to the Saudis. The sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia has always been a source of great controversy in the Congress and among U.S. political circles, particularly the supporters of Israel. In this instance, the issue of Israel's security and sufficient guarantees about the nondeployment of these weapons against Israel have been the major conditions of these deals.

At the same time, the coincidence of the sale of weapons by the United States and the announcement by the Al Sa'ud regime that the weapons purchased from China will not pose a threat to Israel is very meaningful. On the other hand, the Al Sa'ud regime's position in following U.S. regional policies and expanding the scope of anti-Islamic activities of that regime in safeguarding U.S. interests over the past few years have assumed new dimensions. The Al Sa'ud regime, which has so far extended the greatest financial support to the aggressive Iraqi regime and which has, in fact, underwritten the cost of Saddam's savage aggression, has now assumed a new role in implementing the plans of the White House to increase tension in the Middle East to prevent the downfall of the Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, the Al Sa'ud regime's resorting to excuses during the past few years, preventing the proper observance of the hajj cermonies, and obstructing the path of the pilgrims are clear examples of the hostility of this regime toward Islamic principles. Its hostility towards Islam has led it to engage in the slaughter of pilgrims in the sanctuary of God at a time when the pilgrims were chanting the slogans "Death to Israel" and "Death to America," simultaneously with the extensive U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region.

Last year's massacre of pilgrims in holy Mecca on American orders and the concurrence in severing relations with the Islamic Republic and the United State's recent aggression in the Persian Gulf prove the sovereignty of the United States over the Hijaz and the extent of its subservience to the White House. The extensive collaboration with the Iraqi regime, providing it with the means to continue its aggression, and Saudi Arabia's compromise with Israel during the past few years have turned the Hijaz into a base for protecting American interests in the region and have further clarified the alignment of different forces.

Iraqi Claim on Attacking Civilian Sites Denied

LD282312 Tehran IRNA in English 2255 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters categorically denied Iraqi allegations raised in its military communique 3160 Thursday that Iran had attacked Iraq's civilian quarters.

He stressed that Iran had halted its retaliatory attacks on Iraqi cities after Baghdad discontinued its attacks on civilian areas in Iran.

The spokesman said Iran's attacks on eco-military centers in Iraq are basically of retaliatory nature.

Contrary to the claims of the Baghdad rulers, he said, the Ba'thist army last week had shelled residential areas in the Iranian cities of Abadan, Baneh, Sardasht and Marivan martyring nine civilians and wounding 76 others. He said 32 houses as well as one school and one clinic had also been damaged in these attacks.

In an attempt not to involve civilians in the war, the WIH spokesman said, the Islamic Republic has so far displayed forbearance and refrained from retaliating the enemy attacks.

Baghdad's military communique (Thursday night) shows that Iraqi rulers are seeking pretexts to resume their mischiefs, the spokesman pointed out.

We emphasize that we are never willing to enter the war of the cities but in case the Baghdad rulers are planning a new crime against Iran's civilians, they must expect the crushing response of the Islamic combatants, the spokesman warned.

He said Iran once again warns the international community and calls the public opinion of the world to witness that the Islamic Republic has never been the initiator of the war of the cities and will never be so "but we will not remain silent vis-a-vis the enemy's crimes and will duely respond to them in accordance with our own invulnerable principles."

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,186

LD281614 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Wednesday, providing air support for the Navy and reconnoitering eight ships, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3186th Joint Staff communique said that Iran's naval gunboats, in addition to reconnoitering eight cargo ships and three warships in the Persian Gulf yesterday, closely watched movement of two Iraqi gunboats around Al-Bakr platform and Umm Qasr port.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued all over the battlefields Wednesday with Iranian Muslim combatants holding the upper hand.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven enemy bunkers, a 106 mm gun emplacement and a command jeep were destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi engineering and logistical operations in Sardasht, Helaleh, Panjwin and Chazabeh yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

In Mehran and Yebis, western and southern sectors, Iranian forces shelled two Iraqi patrol units Wednesday, killing several enemy patrolmen and forcing the rest to flee.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants silenced fire of Iraqi armoured units in Nahr 'Anbar, Chazabeh and 'Eyn-e Khowsh yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy tanks, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Plane Downed Over Gulf

LD281754 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Bushehr, April 28, IRNA—Iranian jet-fighters in a dogfight over the Persian Gulf waters downed an enemy warplane Thursday. The Iraqi warplane attempted to violate the airspace of this southern port city at 19:13 hours local time (15:43 GMT) but was intercepted and hit by Iranian jet fighters before it could carry out its mission.

Air Force Bombs Al-Faw Area

LD282101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] According to the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army, at 1941 today the self-sacrificing pilots of the Air Force, flying several of their fighter-bombers, bombed the enemy's positions and fortifications in the Al-Faw operational area. After inflicting heavy losses on them, they all returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Sites East of Tigris Hit

LD291101 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 29, IRNA—Over 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an Iraqi vehicle was destroyed and four group bunkers were set ablaze when Muslim combatants opened heavy fire on the enemy's positions east of Tigris Thursday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi logistic and connective lines were barraged by Muslim combatants in fronts east of Basra and Tigris River over the same period as a result of which logistic and engineering activities of the enemy were disrupted and its artillery fire silenced.

Pakistan

Afghan Envoy Summoned Over Cross-Border Firing

BK2704154388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Last Friday [22 April], the Kabul regime's Armed Forces fired 31 artillery rounds at the Waqai area of Bajaur Agency, killing 7 and injuring 5 Pakistanis.

Earlier, on 15 April, two tank rounds were fired from across the border at the Landi Khana area of Khyber Agency, killing one person and injuring another.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Defense Ministry Spokesman on Ojri Bomb Disposal

BK2804114488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman in Rawalpindi today said part of the area of [word indistinct] dump in Ojri camp has been cleared of the unexploded bombs and other debris by the army engineers.

Planned demolitions of the (?quantum of) unexploded bombs in the camp area are continuing from 1200 to 1630. The spokesman explained that to date, a total of 54,000 unexploded bombs have been collected, out of which 23,900 have been gathered from Ojri camp and dump areas. Demolitions at (Parashahi) are also continuing from 0600 to 1130 daily.

Awami Party Leader Assails President's Policies

BK2704100388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the leader of Awami National Party, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has urged democratic forces in the country to ensure full implementation of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan.

In a press statement, Mr Wali Khan criticized President Ziaul Haq for running down the accord. He said that the policies of General Ziaul Haq had encouraged America to interfere in the Gulf and strain relations with India.

Sri Lanka

UNP Wins Control of 4 Provinces in Elections

BK2904055288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Colombo, April 29 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party Friday won the country's first provincial council elections, gaining control of all four provinces which went to the polls Thursday.

But the United National Party (UNP) failed to gain the sweeping majority which its leaders had claimed they would win during campaign meetings.

President Junius Jayewardene's UNP secured 88 of the 155 seats, the election commission said. The UNP had hoped for more particularly as the main opposition party boycotted the polls.

The newly-formed four-party United Socialist Alliance (USA) won 64 seats, the state-run television quoted election commission officials as saying.

The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, formed about two months ago, took three seats in the two provinces which it contested.

It was the first major election since Mr. Jayewardene signed a controversial peace pact with India in July to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

Thursday's elections, aimed at devolving power to provincial councils, were in line with the accord, which the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the main opposition group, has rejected.

The SLFP kept away from the polls and asked voters to boycott them or spoil the ballot papers. Similar calls were given by the outlawed Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), an extremist Sinhalese group also against the 1987 pact.

"If Vijaya was alive we would have certainly got many more seats," said Y.P. de Silva of the Sri Lanka Mahajana (people's) Party (SLMP), one of the four groups constituting the USA.

He was referring to SLMP's actor-turned-politician leader Vijaya Kumaratunga, who was killed in February by the JVP for backing the accord.

Election commission officials said about 60 per cent of the 2.8 million electorate voted Thursday, contradicting their preliminary assessment of a low turnout.

Observers had said a good turnout would be a political victory for Mr. Jayewardene, since it would signify rejection of the SLFP's anti-accord stand.

But officials said thousands of voting papers were spoilt. In one constituency, spoiled—wrongly-filled in ballot papers—outnumbered the votes garnered by the USA.

The UNP, which has been in power since 1977, assumed control of Uva, Sabaragamuwa, North-Central and North-West, four of the nine provinces in Sri Lanka.

Elections are due in three provinces on June 2, leaving only the troubled north and east where India has some 52,000 soldiers to implement the peace pact.

The UNP secured 18 seats in the 32-member Uva council, 22 in the 40-member Sabaragamuwa council, 29 in the 50-member North-West council and 19 in the 31-member North-Central council. Most USA victories were recorded in traditional leftwing strongholds, where the JVP is known to be active.

Three candidates, two of them from the USA, and three USA supporters were killed and several others wounded by the JVP in the run-up to the election.

The JVP, which led a bloody rebellion in 1971, has been blamed for more than 200 killings since the July accord, with many of the victims leftwingers.

But Thursday's polling passed off relatively peacefully. Three killings were reported, including that of a policeman and half-a-dozen bomb blasts occurred but caused no injuries.

The UNP extended its stay in power by six years with a 1982 referendum. The next general elections are due next year.

The SLFP, which has ruled Sri Lanka for a total of some 16 years since independence in 1948, is demanding general elections.

Athulathmudali on Violence, State of Emergency
BK221418 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1402 GMT 22 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—Winding up the debate in parliament yesterday for the extension of the state of emergency, which was passed with 76 votes for and 4 against, Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said according to today's DAILY NEWS that today there are two violent groups in the country—one in the north and the other in the south.

But however much they resort to killing people, that will not enable them to gain their political objectives. If you analyze the situation, you will see their advantages and disadvantages.

You will also see that the groups who commit acts of violence are always at a disadvantage. When you read the list of atrocities committed by them, and presented in the house by the minister of parliamentary affairs, you will see that the acts of violence are decreasing.

Those who commit acts of violence seem to be succeeding for a few days at the start. The public will not tolerate them when they murder good, popular persons.

What I have always been telling is that you cannot gain your objectives by violence. It is only through the democratic process that you can do so. We must give up violence. That is why we always promote discussion.

Today the DAILY NEWS carried a news item about the president meeting Maheswaran [Tamil Eelam Army leader] last week. It was commended by the Indian paper STATESMAN as a good sign. I suggest that the connected editorial be included in the hansard as part of my speech.

We are going to have a discussion with the opposition about the general elections and we will include certain amendments that they have suggested. It will enable the commissioner of elections to announce what parties are recognised parties. This will be done every three months.

The PLOTE has agreed to come into the democratic process. It has said it is abandoning the demand for a separate state. Also that it will not ally with foreign organisations. We were opposed to the term "Tamil Eelam" because that would mean a Tamil section of Sri Lanka.

When problems arise in this country, whatever may be those problems, we could solve them through the democratic process. That is why I am surprised that the SLFP has decided not to contest the provincial council elections.

Official Claims Banned Party Near 'Collapse'
BK251355 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1115 GMT 25 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 25 (LANKA PUWATH)—A number of leaders of the proscribed political party Janata Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] have been arrested by the Sri Lankan security forces during the last few days.

They include Politbureau members, political and military wing leaders, and hit men, a senior police official told LANKA PUWATH today.

He said that in addition, four of five southern terrorists involved in the murder of UNP Chairman Harsha Abeywardane, including the gunman who fired a T-56 rifle at point blank range, killing Mr Abeywardane, his police security officer, his driver and a personal aide last December 3 are now in police custody. The latest arrest in this case was made during the JVP raid on the Katunayake Air Force base last Friday night.

The arrest of the first suspect in the parliament bomb case, Ajit Kumara, for whom a reward of 1 million rupees had been offered, and the crumbling of the JVP organization could be seen by the fact that no protection had been given to Ajith Kumara by the JVP.

Police investigations reveal that Ajith Kumara was taken to Naula along with his wife and daughter in the island's Matale district by the JVP and asked to fend for himself.

No security had been given him and Ajith Kumara had been arrested by 3 unarmed policemen in plain clothes who were on raid for kasippu (illicit liquor) and gambling.

The sources said that the JVP had launched the current attacks with a view to boosting its sagging morale, as it was on the verge of complete disintegration and collapse.

There were serious disagreements among Central Committee members who had overwhelmingly voted against and roundly condemned him [JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera] for ordering the senseless killing of Vijaya Kumaranatunge [noted Sri Lanka film star].

The senior police official said that the JVP had launched the current attacks with a view to boosting its sagging morale as it was on the verge of complete disintegration.

The senior police official said that the large majority of JVP cells in Colombo, Nugegoda, Kelaniya, Mirihana, Matara, Galle, Akuressa, Hambantota, Deniyaya, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Kurunegala, Gampaha and several areas had been broken up and their members apprehended.

Senior police official said the arrested JVP leaders had given investigators vital information necessary to round up members of the cells. For example at Colombo, all 21 members of the JVP hit squad cell, including a woman had been arrested.

While advising the public to be constantly vigilant, the senior police official said that a massive security network was now in operation throughout the country and this was being further strengthened.

AFP Notes Organization of New Tamil Party

BK231544 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 23 (AFP)—The head of a new Sri Lankan Tamil party said here Saturday his group, made up of former armed militants, wanted to wage an unarmed political struggle for Tamil rights in Sri Lanka.

Douglas Devananda, a former military commander for the small, leftist Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), also said the new party would be prepared to support provincial elections, if circumstances permitted.

Mr. Devananda, who identified himself as trained by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), said the new party, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), was formed late last year.

He said it was made up of former "hard core" elements of various Tamil militant groups and was opposed to "liberation groups which terrorized the people"—a reference to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE is the dominant Tamil militant group fighting an estimated 52,000 Indian peace-keeping troops in the island nation and is known to have been involved in bloody clashes with weaker militant groups.

Mr. Devananda also said his party was seeking funds from abroad and from the Indian Government in particular to support its search for a political solution to the bloodshed in Sri Lanka.

He declined to give details of EPDP membership, saying the lives of members would be endangered.

On provincial elections in the Tamil-dominated north and east of the island as provided for under the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact, he said the EPDP would recognize Sri Lanka's Muslims as part of the Tamil-speaking community, but with their own identity, as voters.

But he said negotiations would have to be held with Colombo on Sinhala settlers, who in some Tamil areas accounted for up to 40 per cent of the population. He described most as ineligible to vote.

"(Indian) Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi... assured us of a merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces as one unit where the Tamil-speaking people would remain a majority. We look forward to participating in elections under this arrangement," he said.

Communique on Indian 'Interim Aid' to LTTE

BK261331 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] The Government of Sri Lanka, which was aware of the assistance given by India, sees nothing wrong in the decision taken by the Indian Government to give some interim assistance to the LTTE cadres pending their reabsorption into their normal life in response to the promise the LTTE gave at that time to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and to go ahead early with its implementation.

This was stated in a communique issued from the presidential secretariat in Colombo today. The communique adds that there have been inquiries about the knowledge the Government of Sri Lanka had of the financial assistance given to the LTTE by the Government of India at the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement in 1987.

It further stated that this being entirely a matter between the Government of India and the LTTE, the Government of Sri Lanka was not involved in the process in any way.

The communique points out that the Government of Sri Lanka is adopting a similar course of action with regard to all groups that have accepted the agreement and has appointed a cabinet minister of rehabilitation and reconstruction and is channeling, through this ministry, international aid that has been received.

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